TYRING-
HAM
TOPICS
SEPT.
1973
TO
SUMMER
1988
AND
COMPLETE
INDEX

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Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Union Church in Tyringham, Massachusetts, in the interests of the church and community

SEPTEMBER 1973
Autumn Letter

Dear Folks:-

Surprise! Here we are -back again at the request of several of our friends in Tyringham, who missed Myrtle, the Turtle and were fearful that TYRINGHAM TOPICS would not be continued. As you may recall we did bid you a fond adieu in June.

We were a bit saddened at the thought of losing contact with you all, so we said, that if some of our former staff would be our aides in Tyringham in getting the news, taking photos etc and gathering in the Christmas page, we'd do our share in absentia from Tyringham. So with Irma Clark to do the mailing, Dawn Cernik, Brenda and Barbara VanOrman to gather the news items and take pictures, Carolyn Canon to assemble the Christmas Greetings names, Jennifer Bishop, our artist and Mary Curtin to handle the P.O. we'll still continue without missing an issue of this quarterly news-letter. We shall miss Susan Slater, one of our artists who is now at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Did you ever see a turtle shed crocodile tears? Well our Myrtle did when she thought TYRINGHAM TOPICS would be finished last June. Now she is happy again. But this hot, muggy weather bothered her terribly and we almost had turtle soup from the melting heat. She talked to Larry Cernik about installing an air-conditioner under her shell but it was not found practical.

We being away for seven weeks caused us to lose track of what happened in Tyringham while we crossed the Atlantic, visited Iceland, North Cape, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Russia, Germany, Holland and Ireland but thanks to Dawn and Brenda, who sat right down and listed two pages of events to help me get started on TOPICS, we'll be able to give you a report of what has gone on. You who were here in the Summer already know most of what will follow but many receive TOPICS who are not in Tyringham.

Early in June the town turned out in force to pay homage to Tyringham's retiring schoolteacher, Mrs.Emily Welch. She received many gifts from her admirers, present and former pupils of hers, her relatives and friends. She well deserved all the praise heaped upon her for she had served 20 years as a truly dedicated teacher who loved her job and her pupils, a rare person in that field these days. She enforced discipline and she taught love of country along with "readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmatic."

Time flits and it is that time again to remind you that our next News Letter in December will include our Annual Christmas Greeting pages, in color, including the names of all families and individuals who wish to extend their greetings to all their friends through the pages of TYRINGHAM TOPICS, thus reaching all in our readership numbering over a thousand, at least. The News Letter reaches all past and present Tyringhamites of all ages. It costs only $1.00 per name or at least that for a family though many give more. The latter is appreciated as all we receive goes towards the expenses of publication and mailing of this NewsLetter for a year of four copies... It goes to everyone free of charge and mailing costs are up and may go higher. Your greetings on these pages in December really save you money when you realize the costs of Christmas cards and postage. Please write your names or your family members as you want them listed and send your entries in soon, DECEMBER 1st being the absolute deadline so that we can get the December Letter out before Christmas.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TYRINGHAM TOPICS .

This will be our tenth Christmas Greeting issue. The list increases greatly each year.

The Tyr-Lee Rough Riders held two Horse Shows this Summer and Tyringham youths walked away with ribbons and trophies at both. The first Show was in June at "Oak and Spruce" Resort and the second was held at Brown's Field in Tyringham. Robert Clark, son of Mr & Mrs Robert Clark, Sr. was outstanding at both shows. At the June show he walked off with the Reserve Champion title and at Tyringham, he won the Grand Championship of the Western Division. His horse, Vasco, won prizes in eight classes, amounting to 27 points.

The Tyr-Lee Rough Riders desire to express their thanks to all the patrons who contributed towards the trophies and ribbons for the Tyringham Horse Show.

Robin Clark, sister of Bobby, and Nancy Garner also won prizes, by the way.

Our youthful associate editors tell us that some "strange things" occured in Tyringham this past Summer. "For one, a steer belonging to Richard Loring was mysteriously shot. The animal was to be slaughtered this Fall but it was not found dead for many hours and it had to be buried. The Cattlemen's Association is offering a $100. reward leading to the arrest and conviction of person or persons involved."

"Another event of the Summer was Mr. Walter Howard being attacked by a bull on his farm but no serious injuries resulted. The bull is no longer on the farm."

Seeking to put at rest any anxiety that may have been aroused, our co-editor states that "if anyone has been in Church lately, they would have noticed that the pewter set (from the case in the wall) is missing. Don't be alarmed. It was placed in a safe-deposit vault for safe-keeping." (Ed. note:- A very wise move inasmuch as we understand some suspicious-looking characters seemed very interested in it on a certain occasion.)

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Clark, Sr gave a birthday party recently in honor of Mr. Wilbur Clarks's 80th Birthday. He is a veteran of World Way 1.

The Hop Brook Community Club held its Annual Fair on August 1st and it was by far, the most successful ever held. Crowds jammed the basement of Union Church and outside as well, enjoying thorougly the quality of the items sold, the reasonable prices and the fellowship of the affair. The "spark-plug" of the Club and the Fair, whose name we were asked not to publish for she is a most modest lady, hoped to make was one thousand dollars. (We wont tell you her name but she is the grandmother of Susan Slater, whom you all know and who is now a student at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma.)

But thanks to the leadership, the hard-work of herself and her co-workers, the total raised was $1,870.48!!!!!!! Breaking this down for details the "Fancy Table brought in $858.75; the velvet spread sold for $112.50; the miscellaneous table made $109.25; the Food Table, $173.00; Coffee & Doughnuts, $12.12; Toys, $27.27; Furniture, $161.05; the Rummage Sale (most ever), $194.34; and Stockbridge special, $222.00. The Youth Fellowship of Union Church cleared $35.

We wish so much we could show you pictures of this most succesful event but apparently none of our staff took any and Myrtle, the Turtle was in Hamburg, Germany, on that eventful day and could not take any turtle-view photos, which would, of course, been mostly of feet.

Besides Mrs Grace Slater (oops, we let out the name we weren't supposed to) so far as we know the various tables were manned--or perhaps we'd better say "womaned" by Mrs. Miles Reber, President of Hop Brook,wife of Major General Miles Reber, Mrs. Millicent McIntosh, ex-President of Barnard College; Miss Margaret Clapp,ex-president of Wellesley College; Mrs. Lois Olds, Mrs. Katherine McLennan, Mrs. Blanche Thober, Mrs. Ann Davis,Mrs. Viola Picken, Mrs. Rose Leipzig. We are uninformed but we guess that Bill Thober and and General Reber were the men on duty.

As you may know the Parsonage is being completely done over, inside and outside for the occupancy of the new minister when he is found. Led by the same "spar-plug" of the Hop Brook Fair, the renovation of the Parsonage has made great progress due also to the many hours of devoted labor of all sorts by the following:- Caroline Canon, Irma Clark, Willis and Marilyn Fennelly, Helen Twing, Deanna Curtin, Maggie Curtin, Bill and Blanche Thober, Dr. and Mrs. Rustin McIntosh, Judy Reber, Kate and Barbara Van Orman, Mrs. Emerson, Dick Fennelly, Pat Clark, Sara Hudson, Mrs. Calsel, Catha Rambusch, giving a total of 165 hours of work. As there is still more to do, we shall wait until later to give the total hours. And bear in mind, the one who supervised all these good people has not tabulated her own time, which involved many hours, indeed. In addition, time and labor and materials have been given by George Hale, who has done necessary wiring and Donald Hale, who has made shelves and cupboards for the kitchen, which he will also install. Additional names of volunteers will be mentioned in a Tyringham Topics to follow at later dates.

It is heart-warming to a former pastor to read and to be privileged to report these generous acts of so many wonderful God-loving people, God bless 'em.

Nor must we overlook the many generous financial gifts that have made all this possible.

Mrs. John Heath, 92, died August 9th. She leaves her husband, two sons, Robert and John, and several grandchildren. Services were held in Union Church with burial in Tyringham Cemetery.

Tyringham has a new Librarian--- apparently it has had two since Marilyn Fennelly resigned . Mrs. Marion Leach held the position for six months and now Mrs. Irma Clark has taken the position and, according to our associate editors she"has proved both efficient and pleasant."

Mrs. Percy Stanton, confined to the Great Barrington Nursing Home celebrated her 87th Birthday on August 27th. Five generations were represented at the great occasion.

Some concern is being expressed for the safety of Mr & Mrs William Thober who are, at this writing, in Lomdon, where two railway stations have been bombed. By the time this TYRINGHAM TOPICS is in your hands, we hope they will be safely back home.

We have lost two valued members of our Choir. Susan Slater, who is also assistant organist, is attending Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma as we mentioned earlier and Ruth Heath is at St. Mary's College in New Hampshire. But we can still depend on the faithfulness of Brenda and Barbara VanOrman and Dawn Cernik, although she has taken a position at the Lee Friendly. Then there is Nancy Heath soon to return,

The Tyringham Fire Department held their Annual Steak Roast and Block Dance last month with a large crowd in attendance.

Please forgive any omission of names or newsy items as we were away for seven weeks but we think our gals helped a lot in catching up.

Yours for Tyringam,

FLC

P.S. Mrs. William Leipzig has sold her Tyringham home on Webster Rd. to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Schwartz. Mrs. Leipzig and her late husband, have always been wonderful friends to Tyringham and shared in our Summer activities. We hope that Mrs. Leipzig will drop in now and then to see her many friends. So, dear Mrs. Leipzig, we bid you "au revoir" and SHALOM!

Tyringham Topics

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DECEMBER 1973
Winter Letter

Dear Folks:-

Season's Greetings and best wishes to you all, whether it be Christmas or Hanukkah you are observing! May the coming year bring happiness and good fortune to each and all of you.

This being the last week of November with our December deadline to meet, we are unable to announce the Christmas programs of Union Church. The Church still lacks a Minister and the Church Committee will meet on December 10th to decide the plans for Christmas.

It looks as though our Christmas Greeting pages will contain as many names or more than ever which is GREAT!

Tyringham has had two new arrivals --- a son, Michael David was born October 27th to Mr. and Mrs. John Curtin, Jr and on November 4th a daughter arrived for Mr and Mrs. Robert K. Clark. The young lady's name is Kristie.

On Saturday, October 13th, Mrs. Rudd Truax of New York and Tyringham was married to Mr. George Kramer also of New York in Union Church. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Reverend David Read. The bride is the widow of H, Rudd Truax, formerly of New York and Tyringham.

On Saturday, October 6th, Mrs. Couch and I showed our color slides of our recent trip on the Swedish-American Ship, the Kungsholm. We covered Iceland, Norway and Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Russia, Germany, Holland, Ireland as most of you already know.

Myrtle, the Turtle, along with many others apparently, was at one time quite interested and concerned about Flying Saucers. So she decided to make a deep study of the problem and has announced that they are nothing to worry about. She has concluded that they are not flying saucers at all--- merely flying turtles. If men can fly why can't turtles, mused Myrtle.

Our Youth Fellowship has elected the following officers for the 1973-1974 season:- President -- Brenda VanOrman
Vice-Pres.-- Denise Curtin
Secy-Treas - Dawn Cernik
The organization put on a Covered Dish Supper on November 10th and cleared $90. At the Hop Brook Club Christmas Sale, their table brought in $30. These funds help support their Indian fosterchild.

THE HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB CHRISTMAS FAIR

Mrs. Miles Reber, President of Hop Brook Club makes a sale and Mrs. Slater looks on approvingly.

Mrs. Picken and Mrs. McIntosh "man" the Food Table and are kept busy.

Mrs. McLennan and Mrs. Picken (having adjusted her glasses) hold forth at the other end of the Food Table.

The HopBrook Club cleared $218.41 a goodly profit for their annual Christmas Sale. They might have done even more had they not been forced to close at noon on account of power failure.

At their table the Youth Fellowship are also kept busy and they made $35.00 From left to right are Jeffrey Cernik, Brenda VanOrman, Barbara VanOrman, Kerry Clark and Dawn Cernik.

TYRINGHAM SCHOOL 1973-1974
Left to right, front row:-Michael Winters, John Pothul, Matthew Curtin, Adam Fennelly, Robin Clark. 2nd row:- Jimmy Curtin, Jimmy Winters, Nancy Twimg, Marjorie Slater, Beth Curtin. 3rd row:- Katy Curtin, Jennifer Pothul, Molly Curtin, Kelly Curtin. And rear row:- Steven Pothul, Mrs. Lois Secundy (teacher), Jennifer Darey, Michael Carlson, Parker Fennelly, Mrs. Ann Emerson

Tyringham's Union Church as it looked in 1893, when it was a Methodist Church. It was built in 1844.

Here is how Curtin's Store looked in 1893 when it was known as Tinker's Store and that was long before our Mary Curtin was born.

Unfortunately the Youth Fellowship has been unsuccessful in getting folks to take names of young children for whom they would donate gifts to place below the Christmas Tree, so this attempt has been abandoned. "But" says the Youth Fellowship, "those who would like to try their luck at it are very welcome to try." "Otherwise" says their spokesman "if you wish your child to receive a gift, you should place one under the tree yourself." So there, Folks, it's up to you if your child gets a gift under the Christmas Tree in the Town Hall when the Tyringham School puts on its annual Christmas entertainment. (Note:- The candy and the oranges are donated by the Hop Brook Club so no one will go hungry!)

The UNICEF drive tgis year, sponsored by the Youth Fellowship, brought in $43. About 25 children attended the party held at the Church that evening and the youngsters were given hot chocolate and donuts after the canvass and were entertained by a haunted house and other "attractions."

A new 4-H club has started in Tyringham with Dawn Cernik as Leader. The President is Denise Curtin, Vice-President, Jennifer Pothul; Secretary, Amy Fennelly; Treasurer, Kathy Curtin. All girls between the ages of seven and thirteen may belong. Meetings are held each Thursday at 3.30 pm and various things are made such as winter gardens, lollipops, magic rocks. At present they are learning to knit.

Work on the rneovation of the Parsonage is progressing. In our September TYRINGHAM TOPICS, we gave a list of names of volunteers who had given their services up to that date. There now follows a list of kind volunteers who have worked since:-

Excavating with back-hoe -- Richard Loring

Locating new furnace in basement:-Arnold Hale
Willis Hale
Donald Hale
Stephen Hale
George Hale
Fred Judd
Alan Garner

Work on outside plumbing: - Edwin Twing,Jr

Excavating and raising building to level, setting posts,for future concrete foundation:- Arnold Hale, Fred Judd, Kenneth Jones

There still remains to pour the foundation.

All the above-mentioned work has been done at night with spot lights to work by.

These men, we must remember, after working hard at their regular employment during the daylight hours, still are willing to come and work hard for their Church evenings and sometimes way into the night. Truly they show wonderful Christian service and devotion. If any names have been omitted, either in our September letter or this one, please let us know. And to all of you who have helped your Church in any way, your former Pastor says "God bless you, each and all.

To all of you who helped in any way in getting out this Christmas TYRINGHAM TOPICS, hearty thanks. We'll acknowledge your work in our March copy.

May God's blessing be upon all who read this letter and may you ---each and all of you ---have a Happy Christmas or Hanukkah and a wonderful 1974.

Yours for Tyringham,
FLC

Tyringham Topics

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MARCH 1974
Spring Letter

Dear Folks:-

Here we are again and Spring is in the air! HOORAY! For a long stretch or two along Tyringham Road you can see sap pails hanging from maple trees and as we start this letter on the first day of the month we have seen the first robin in Dalton. We seem to be over the hump of winter but we can remember - and so can many of you - when our Easter Sunday Church Service in April was held during a raging blizzard!

Before we go any further, let us duly thank all of you who made our Christmas Greeting page a tremendous success by your contributions and names. Likewise credit is due Miss Carolyn Cannon for her time and effort in assembling all those names; Mary Curtin for her mailing efforts at the Post Office and Irma Clark and daughter, Kerry, for addressing and distribution; to Kenneth Jones and Dawn Cernik for news items and to Ruth Couch for the alphabeticization of names. That long word just came out of our head and it may or may not be in the dictionary.

At the Church's Annual Meeting the followig officers were elected for the terms specified:- Moderator-Charles Slater (1 yr) Clerk-Davena Curtin (1 yr); Treasurer,-Willis Fennelly (1 yr); Deacon, Kenneth Jones (3 yrs); Deaconess, Judy Reber 3 yrs); Member-at-large of Church Comm, Fred Judd (2 yrs); Auditor, Rustin McIntosh (1 yr); Trustee, Arnold Hale (3 yrs):Finance Committee, Fred Judd (3 yrs); Nominating Comm, Judy Reber (3 yrs) Delegate, Beatrice Loring, (1 yr); Alternate, Ruth Heath (1 yr).

Union Church has been closed during the month of February but has started Sunday services again with Mr. Warren Scammon of Windsor in the pulpit. In December the Annual Carol and Candlelight Service was held with the former Pastor in the pulpit.

A son, Stephen Edgar Curtin, was born December 7, 1973. His father was a well-known baseballer but it is not known whether or not young Stephen was born with a baseball glove on or not. The parents are Mr & Mrs Terry Curtin.

On Saturday, January 12, Miss Alice Elizabeth Higgins of Dalton was married to Charles Edward Slater, Jr. of Tyringham, son of Charles and Elizabeth Slater. Miss Higgins is the daughter of Mrs. Alice Higgins and the late John W. Higgins. The couple were married in St. Agnes' Church in Dalton by the Rev. Paul A. Carberry. A reception in Dalton's American Legion Hall followed the ceremony. The couple are now residing in Tyringham.

Miss Darleen Curtin, daughter of Mr and Mrs. Neil Curtin of Tyringham became the bride of Joseph Wilkinson of Sheffield, son of William Wilkinson of Southfield and Mrs. Ruth Decker of Canaan, Connecticut in the Union Church in Tyringham on Friday, February 8th, the ceremony being conducted by Rev. F. L. Couch. A reception followed at Ida & John' Restaurant in Lenox. The couple are now living in Sheffield.

Along with other towns in the state, Tyringham has changed the month of its Annual Town Meeting from March to May. This action was taken at a Special Town Meeting which also approved the hiring of an attendant to supervise the town dump three days a week for four hours each day.

Girard L. Spencer of New York and Tyringham, died suddenly in New York, February 10th. He was 75. Surviving are his widow, the former Mary Elizabeth Fremd and a daughter, Mrs. Arthur Fox, a son, Girard L. Spencer, Jr and five grandsons.

An excellent review of a book by a Tyringham resident, Blaine Littel entitled "The Dolorosa Deal" appeared recently in the EAGLE. Mr. Littell and his wife, Penelope, lived in Israel while the book was being written. The book is a spy story --"fast moving, neatly constructed and well-written".

Along similar lines, my good wife and I were listening or rather, watching a favorite program on TV, "What's My Line?", when I was startled to see a former familiar Tyringham face appear as one of the three to be interviewed and guessed to be the author of a book called "Sexual Suicide." I immediately told my wife that it was Number 1 and so it turned out to be and she thought I was quite smart to guess it so quickly and early in the game. The writer was George Gilder, whom many of you know in Tyringham. He, too, has written a very interesting book and quite controversial as it sure hits at women's lib. "If you show this book to a girl, she will get very mad" said the review. It upset Myrtle, the Turtle greatly and she says if she catches George in Tyringham she'll "tell him off." But I showed Myrtle what one reviewer, a girl, said of it and she calmed down. The reviewer said "Before I get any madder, I had better admit that this is a book that deserves its success--intelligent, stimulating, and provocative (not to mention infuriating.")

We are sorry to report that our good friend, Jesse Pierce, always cheerful and helpful, lies with two legs -- I should say "<u>both</u>"legs (for that's all he has naturally) broken below the knees. A falling tree swerved and struck him. He is in room 252 in Pittsfield General. The accident happened on February 28th. When I saw him he was suffering some pain but smiling as usual.

Down Tyringham Road in 1893 Where is it?

The First Rake Factory

The old Tyringham Mill Pond--Hop Brook in its finest hour!

The old Slater House owned by S. G. Slater, grandfather of our Charles Slater.

We are happy to learn that the Tyringham Selectmen are interested in the American Revolution Bicentennial as concerns the Knox Trail and the Westenhook Indian Trail. We hope that Tyringham will become deeply interested in the Bicentennial as the writer is the Chairman cf Dalton's Committee.

Did you know that the Tyringham Rake Factory makes no more rakes but is turning out hockey sticks instead? This company which for years made wooden rakes, presenting a gift rake to each incoming President of the United States has ceased making this product, though, as a wood-turning company, it still produces thousands of ladder rungs each year and, according to its owner, Robert Ezequelle of Lakeville, Connecticut, for the past seven years it has been edging slowly into the hockey stick market. It turns out nearly 200,000 hockey stick handles a year. The wood is white ash and it is purchased in log form from not only Berkshire County but also Pennsylvania and western New York State.

They say that for hockey stick handles, the demand is for straight grain for a minimum length of five feet. Stedman handles are fitted with blades and finished for sale in Canada. They are marketed under the "Sher-Wood"label.

A chimney fire broke out suddenly, fortunately in the day time, in the home of Mr & Mrs Donald Davis of the Tyringham Galleries. It was extinguished by the Tyringham and Lee Fire Departments.

Dawn Cernik as a majorette and Brenda VanOrman and Sharon Adams of the Lee High School Band went with the Band to visit Disney Land in Florida on March 6th, returning on the 11th. The Band played there one day of their stay.

Brenda VanOrman, a third year French student in Lee High, will go with her French Class of Lee High School for a twelve-day visit in France, including stays in Paris and on the Riviera. Bon voyage, Brenda!

Guess that's all for now, folks. We miss you.

Yours for Tyringham,

FLC

Tyringham Topics

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JUNE 1974
Summer Letter

Dear Folks:-

Let us start this letter with glad news for in this issue we have both happy and sad news to tell you. So here goes with the "glad":- Our beloved Union Church at long last has a new minister! She is the Reverend Vesta N. Thompson and she started her service on Sunday May 12th. She had been Assistant Minister at the Ormond Beach, Florida Union Church.

She is a native born"Massachusettsian". (word specially coined for this news-letter.) She graduated from Gordon College in Wenham with a degree in theology and was ordained in Maine where she served two churches before moving to Florida. She has specialized in Bible Study and has worked with various age groups.

She is living in the Parsonage with her father, a 90 year old youth. The Parsonage, as you all know, has been completely renovated mostly by volunteer labor and contributions under the devoted and skillful supervision of Mrs. Grace Slater.

May I, as writer of this News-letter and former Pastor for 21 years of Union Church, congratulate the Church's Search Committee, the Church Membership and the people of Tyringham for a most excellent choice of my successor. And may I congratulate Mrs. Thompson on her becoming pastor and resident of Tyringham, to serve and to live among the nicest and most lovable people a minister could ask for in the most beautiful of villages.

As to the happy news we have on hand we will start with the new arrivals, either to present Tyringham folk or to former ones. A son, Scott Michael Canon arrived to grace the Dalton home of John and Marie Canon. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. J. Northrup Canon of Tyringham and Mr. and Mrs Raymond Buffoni of Lee.

On May 28th, April Elizabeth Slater was born, the parents being Charles (Jr) and Alice Higgins Slater of Tyringham. The grandparents are Mr and Mrs Charles Slater of Tyringham and Mrs Alice Higgins of Dalton, widow of the late John W. Higgins.

On Saturday June 8th, Miss Susan May Slater, daughter of Mr and Mrs. Charles Slater of Tyringham, became the bride of Robert David Choquette, son of Mr and Mrs. Harvey J. Choquette, also of Tyringham. The Rev. Lorne A. Ross of Lenox officiated at the 7.00 o'clock ceremony in the Hope Advent Church in Lenox. Miss Dawn Cernik of Tyringham was Maid of Honor and

Miss Marjorie Slater, sister of the bride was flower girl. Fred Kimberly was Best Man. Edward Choquette, brother of the groom and Daniel Slater, brother of the Bride were ushers.

Miss Margaret Clapp, eighth President of Wellesley College and a winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Biography died in her Tyringham home the last of April. Her ptesidency of Wellesley which extended from 1949 until she resigned in 1966 "was one of the most notable in the history of the college, which will celebrate its 100th Anniversary next year." She was the first woman to hold the rank of Minister Counsellor of Public Affairs in a United States Embassy and she also had been for three years the cultural officer for the Unite States Information Service in India, and for two years was principal of Lady Doak College, a liberal arts school for women in Madurai. Two Memorial Services were held for her, one in Wellesley and one in Tyringham.

Dr. Margaret Clapp was born April 11, 1910 in East Orange, N.J. and graduated in 1930 from Wellesley. During her lifetime she won many honors in the fields of Education.

She leaves a sister, Mrs. Lois Clapp Olds of Tyringham and two brothers, Alfred C. and Oliver H. Clapp. She was an Associate member of Union Church.

The second death of a Tyringham resident was that of Mrs. Isabel Roger Stanton, 88, a resident for many years. She was the town's Librarian for 38 years, a Library Trustee for 42 years and a member of the School Committee for 25 years. She and her late husband, Percy Stanton, were married in East Canaan in 1909. He died in 1961. Mrs. Stanton was along time member of Union Church and served for many years on the Church Committee. She was the founder of the Hop Brook Club and its first President. She belonged to the Lee Chapter of the Eastern Star. She leaves two daughters, Mrs. Charles T. McCarthy of Gainesville Florida and Mrs. John Curtin of Tyringham; twelve grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren and 8 great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held in Union Church followed by burial in the Tyringham Cemetery.

Tyringham lost a third resident, Kenneth Michael Winters, 33 who died of a heart attack. He was born in Pittsfield but lived practically all of his life in Tyringham. He graduated in 1959 from Lee High School, where he was a star on the football field. He served in the United States Army three years. He was a member of Union Church.

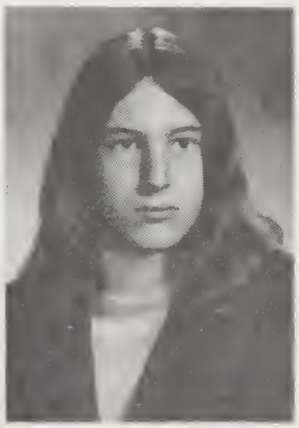
He leaves his wife, the former Lillian Williams; four sons, Michael, James, Troy and Patrick; a daughter, Melissa; his mother, Mrs. Evelyn Winters of Tyringham and a sister, Mrs. Albert Williams of Lee. His funeral was held in Union Church with burial following in the Tyringham Cemetery.

From the sad news let us now turn to more of the happy events. On March 30, 1974 Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hale celebrated their Golden Wedding at a party given by their children, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hale and Miss Alice Hale all of Tyringham and by their grandchildren, A Stephen Hale and Mr and Mrs. Roy R. Bienvenue. The happy affair was held at the G & G restaurant near Goose Pond in Lee and more than a hundred relatives and friends and relatives attended. TYRINGHAM TOPICS, including Myrtle, the Turtle, wishes the Gold Wedding Couple many years more of happiness.

The Class of 1974 --Tyringham School, reading from left to right:- John Pothul, Jennifer Darey, Jennifer Pothul, Robin Clark, Katy Curtin and Kelly Curtin

TYRINGHAM
GRADUATES
OF
LEE HIGH
1974

Dawn Cernik
To attend Rivier College, Nashua, N.H. (Home Ec)



David Garner
To work at Berkshire House in Lenoxdale with plastics

Daniel Slater
To work on the Farm.

The writer desires to thank all of you who called or tried to call on him in Pittsfield General Hospital and the many who sent "Get Well" cards. All such tokens of friendship were greatly appreciated, believe me. Now, with a speedometer --- I mean pacemaker in my chest I can return to active life. Thank you all again and God bless you.

On two successive Sundays the BERKSHIRE SAMPLER has honored two sons of Tyringham. For those who do not see the SAMPLER, we would tell you that a fine article on our Walter Howard and his dairy farm appeared in the issue of Sunday, March 31st. It was well written by Vicki Sanders and it described Walter and his farm and we learned that he works about 15 hours a day, seven days a week and employs five farm-hands. It's a great story about a very fine young man.

The following week the SAMPLER told about another Tyringham young man, a writer and author of a book entitled "Sexual Suicide" about which we mentioned in last March's TYRINGHAM TOPICS. He is George Gilder. In spite of the ire aroused among women, George is still alive and thriving.

Brenda VanOrman, who now becomes a Senior in Lee High School is quite distinguished for her knowledge of the French language. I like to think I had a wee bit of somethimg to do with getting her interested in French as I used to spiel French to her now and then when she was a Freshman or even earlier. Anyway she has gone on and rated second in Western Massachusetts for her handling a National French Test. Last Summer she was one of a group from Lee High who visited France, Paris in particular.

We would close by giving you a picture of the Tyringham "Center" School as it was in 1893.

Until we meet again,

Yours for Tyringham,

FLC

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Union Church in Tyringham, Massachusetts, in the interests of the church and community

AUTUMN AND WINTER, 1974.

Judy Reber: General News — Blanche Thober: Hop Brook Comm. Club News

Sue Choquette: Youth News — Alice Thain: Photographer

Dear Folks:-

For many years we have all delighted in reading that lively publication TYRINGHAM TOPICS, compiled and edited by Rev. Frank "Cap" Couch. If now and then he had to call for help from the pert and elusive Myrtle, we didn't mind at all. On the contrary! Now, however, "Cap" feels that Church-connected duties in Dalton, plus involvement with the Bicentenniel organization, prevent him from giving the time necessary for work on the Topics. The Hop Brook Community Club, with some trepidation at the thought of following in "Cap's" able footsteps, will endeavor to continue publication. And so, from all of us who have enjoyed his writing, many good wishes and a hearty "Thank you, Cap!"

(J. R.)

Last April, when the Union Church Search Committee had almost given up hope of finding a new minister, a miraculous coincidence occurred. "Cap" Couch's daughter-in-law heard, at Concord Academy, from a cousin of the Rev. Vesta Thompson that she wanted to return to Massachusetts. Two visits brought mutual conviction to Mrs. Thompson and the Tyringham Church members that she should leave an Associate Pastorship at the Union Church in Ormond Beach, Florida, and come to us. In May she arrived with her father, Frank Balsor, her four dogs and a cat.

They settled in the parsonage, which even after long hours of labor on the part of Tyringhamites was still not finished. But nothing disturbed our new minister. She cooked in the basement of the church, washed dishes in the bathtub, and happily settled in. Our cohorts ralled to finish the last details, and Mr. Balsor, an expert carpenter at 89, took over many chores. The parsonage became a comfortable home, presided over by a gracious, indomitable woman.

In spite of the fact that our congregation is very small compared with her previous one of 600, Mrs. Thompson launched a forward-looking program. Attendance at Church increased; a summer weekly "Golden Hour" for children met an enthusiastic response; Sunday School has attracted new teaching talent and over 40 attenders. Plans are under way to again organize the Youth Fellowship.

We are grateful that Mrs. Thompson felt a call to come to our little Church. We believe that her knowledge of the Bible, her gifts as a preacher, and her selfless desire to serve her fellow townspeople will meet a wide response from our community.

(M. McI.)

The following births are reported: Last May, a girl, Miranda, was born to Angelica (McLennan) and Philippe Syp. The Syps are residents of Williamstown.

On June 16, to Roy and Christine (Hale) Bienvenue, a son, Donald Camille. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hale of Tyringham, and Mr. and Mrs. Camille Bienvenue of Lee.

On September 24 to Darleen (Curtin) and Joseph Wilkinson, a son, Todd Matthew. Darleen is a former Tyringham resident, now living in Sheffield. The maternal grandparents are Neil and Helen Curtin, and the paternal grandmother is Mrs. Ruth Decker of Canaan, Conn.

On October 28, a daughter, Jessica Lynn, was born to Kathleen (Abbott) and Richard E. Cernik. The maternal grandparents are Donald and Jacquline Abbott of Lee, and the paternal grandparents are Larry and Betty Cernik of our fair town.

Christenings and Dedications: -- Rev. Vesta Thompson christened and dedicated Kristie Ann Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clark, on June 9, at the Church during the Children's Day Service.

The christening and dedication of April Elizabeth Slater, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Slater, Jr., took place on September 15, with Rev. Thompson officiating.

Wedding bells pealed out merrily for the following newly-weds: On June 22 Susan Wilson, daughter of Mr. Francis Wilson, was married to Arnold Stephen Hale, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hale of Tyringham, at the St. Francis Church in South Lee. To lend a more dramatic note to the festivities, the Hale family dusted off, and brought out in honor of the occasion, a "rock-a-way carriage", which is well over 100 years old and remarkably well preserved. A Berkshire Eagle photographer snapped the happy pair within the conveyance, which had Willis Hale jauntily at the reins.

On June 22, Herbert Heath, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Heath, Sr., of Lee, married Miss Deborah Haddad, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Haddad of Lenox. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Thompson at the Union Church.

On August 10, Miss Ruth Dianne Heath, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Heath, Sr., of Lee, married Steven Joseph LeCompte, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marcel LeCompte, of Vergennes, Vt., at the Union Church, with Rev. Thompson officiating. The happy pair now reside in Vergennes, Vt.

It is with sadness that we report the death of Mrs. Grace Erickson Holloway in June. She was the wife of Mr. John W. Holloway, whose parents made us the gift of the Church chimes. She had always loved our valley, and we mourn her loss.

In October, Mrs. Julia de Selincourt, died suddenly at the home of her daughter, Anne Palmer. In her earlier years she had undertaken much charitable work, especially in connection with young children. A marvellous record. Our condolences to Anne and to all her family.

The death of Mrs. Mary Sheldon Jarrett occured in September. She was the aunt of Mrs. Francis Darey, and sister of Mrs. Ruth DuVernois (formerly of Tyringham but now living in Florida), who was one-time president of the Hop Brook Club. Our sympathy to the members of her family.

It is with deep sadness that we report the sudden death at his home on November 15 of Roger W. Logan. Born in Winsted, Conn., in 1908, he moved to Tyringham in 1945. He led a life here which was active in civic and Church affairs. He was deacon of Union Church for 25 years. He served the town as assessor and constable; was the town's Civil Defense director; Red Cross disaster chairman; and served as selectman in the mid-1960's. His sudden death is a shock to all of us. We will miss him.

With regard to the Annual Red Cross Drive in Tyringham, Mrs. John N. Curtin, local Chairman, reports that a total of $495.00 was collected. Since our Quota was reckoned at $325.00, this is an especially fine showing. Many thanks are due to our little fund-solicitors--Molly, Kelly, and Beth Curtin. We extend sincere thanks also to our towns-people and many summer residents, whose generous contributions enabled us to over-top our Quota.

Last summer saw the resumption of the free swimming lessons at Tyringham Pond. To start with, there were twenty-six children; four classifications of swimmers; and their able instructor was Mrs. June Love of Glendale. Out of eleven in the Beginner's Class, five passed: Beth Curtin, Christine Curtin, Nancy Twing, Parker Fennelly, and Sam Moffett. Of nine Advanced Beginners, five passed: Kelly Curtin, Robin Clark, Beth Curtin, Michael Carlson, and Gerald Curtin. All children enrolled in the Intermediate Class passed: Molly, Kelly, Jeffrey and Terry Curtin. In the Swimmers Class, all three children passed: Amy Fennelly, Jennifer Pothul, and Sammy Slater. Congratulations to all of these "Water Babies"!

"CAP'S" CORNER: Cap Couch sends us the following information about himself, Ruth, and the timeless Myrtle: "As for news of my doings let me just say that I am keeping out of mischief in visiting, weekly, three hospitals, two convalescent homes and numerous shut-ins; chairing Dalton's Revolutionary War Bicentennial Commission, which will receive the first National Bicentennial flag awarded in Berkshire County, due to the efforts of a splendid and enthusiastic Commission, numbering 50 members. They're a great bunch! Ruth is behaving very well and has joined the Inasmuch Circle of our Church here, which corresponds to the Hop Brook Club. Myrtle the Turtle busies herself looking after me, which requires a great deal of her time!"

Close-ups and Long-Shots:--Dr. and Mrs. Rustin McIntosh were hosts to all their five children, four spouses, and ten grandchildren during the summer. They themselves had a holiday in England visiting old friends during November.

Michael Dukakis, son-in-law of summer residents Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Dickson, has been elected Governor of our great Commonwealth. Congratulations, Mr. Dukakis, and may your Ship of State sail only in serene waters. If it's possible.

David Perkins, age 17, son of "Petey" and Ned Perkins, joined the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus in Pittsfield last summer in July. He spent six weeks as a mechanic's assistant, and toured all over New England. His mother tells us he spent part of his sleeping time in the same truck as the elephants. (Myrtle wants to know if this shows definite Republican tendencies?)

Ann and Don Davis took off on a three-week tour of Italy. They are both lyrical about the treasures of the Old World, and confess to having been at times overwhelmed by a sense of tradition and history projected by such ancient cities as Rome, Florence and Venice. (Glad Ann's back in time to "man" the lunch counter at the Hop Brook Club's Thanksgiving Sale!)

Our minister, Rev. Thompson, visited her daughter Susan Whitten and family in Elizabeth City, N.C., in October. At the same time, and in the same city, she attended a conference on Bible Prophecy. She also caught the flu, which was a bit of a non-bonus.

In September Mary and Ray Smith visited their daughter Mary-Gene Rubin and their grandson, Lance, in Houston, Texas. In return, Lance and Mary-Gene will visit the Smiths come Christmas-time.

Jennifer Bishop is now a senior at Phillips Academy in Andover. Her interests are still writing and art and she is busy looking at colleges for next year. Jennifer will be home for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Recently Maria and Gary Devore of "South House" bought the Morgan House in Lee. They plan to restore this ancient hostelry along Colonial lines. Good luck in your new venture, Maria and Gary!

We received a long newsy letter from Bill Dyer, former Tyringhamite. He spoke of many Dyer (not "dire"!) Doings, and we will relate some of them in our next issue.

(J. R.)

Our young people have been quite active in various areas these past few months. Jeffrey Cernik is rehearsing the role for the part of the 'Old Man' in the Jr. High Drama Club presentation "The Beanstock and Jack." Barbara VanOrman will be singing in the accompanying chorus.

Brenda VanOrman has been selected as a semi-finalist for the National Merit Scholarship. Placements were based on the results of a test taken last year in October. Brenda is now eligible for a one thousand dollar scholarship to be awarded in April.

Wednesday, November 13, the first meeting of the season was held to reorganize the Youth Fellowship, under the direction of the Rev. Vesta Thompson. A group of five Jr. and Sr. High students attended. Anyone of this age group is more than welcome to join. The Fellowship is planning to participate in a very special Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 24. Please make it a point to attend, as you will not want to miss this unique service. And why not plan to invite a friend to join with the rest of us in thanksgiving to God on this special day?!

Our Church choir has greatly expanded this year with the commencement of Sunday School. It is such a blessing to all to hear so many sweet young voices each week.

A number of our more musically inclined young people are members of the Lee High Band and Majorette Corps this year. Kerry Clark is an alternate majorette and a member of the Swingflag group, which participates in football half-times and parades. Other members of the band are Sharon Adams, Denise Curtin, and Branda VanOrman.

One of our June graduates of '74, Dawn Cernik, is now at Riviera College in New Hampshire, majoring in Home Economics. After a brief period of orientation and adjustment, she is thoroughly enjoying college life. She has been home two different weekends, and plans to be home for the long Thanksgiving weekend.

Two members of the Tyr-Lee Rough Riders horse 4-H, Bob Clark and Betty Prinz, have made finals in competition at the University of Conn. Previous competition was held at the University of Mass. Bob and Betty will be competing next in the Northeast Regional Horse Judging Contest in Harrisburg, Pa. The club congratulates them both and wishes them good luck.

Continued on slip-sheet

At the last meeting of the Rough Riders, new officers were elected and committees organized. Betty Prinz was elected president, Sarah Wilson - vice president, Cathy Garrity - treasurer, and Club Reporter - Bob Clark, who has also become a junior leader. A committee of three, Sarah Wilson, Betty Prinz, and Bob Clark, has been organized to make monthly stable checks. No warning will be given as to when the first check will be made.

The Rough Riders recently attended the Eastern States Horse Show which was enjoyed by all. A special thanks is in order to all drivers.

The club is presently selling 4-H cookies for the benefit of Camp Howe. They are also planning to purchase a new U.S. flag for the newly redone Town Hall. Members will also be giving two demonstrations at the annual Achievement Night. Betty Prinz and Bob Clark will demonstrate horse judging, and Kerry Clark and Denise Curtin, principles of grooming.

A new 4-H club has been organized under the direction of Mrs. Charles Slater, Sr., the Crystal Brook Dairy - Beef 4-H. Members are Sam Slater, John Pothul, Gerry Curtin, Everett Fennelly, and Marjorie Slater. Meetings are held the first Friday of each month. The objective of each member is to raise either a dairy or a beef calf to be exhibited at the Hancock Fair next summer. Anyone 8 years of age or older is eligible and welcomed to join.

(S. C.)

This was an especially active and successful year for the Hop Brook Community Club with increased membership and added activities.

The Fair, held on August 7, was the most successful in its history, with a profit of $1,961.48!!!!! This figure is broken down as follows: fancy work - $1,236.25; food table - $188.01; rummage, furniture, and miscellaneous items - $537.12.

A new project for the Club was a historic tour of Tyringham which was planned and carried through on August 10th under the able chairmanship of Mrs. John McLennan, with the following very diligent workers: Mrs. Leonard Brown, Mrs. Donald Davis, Mrs. Blaine Litell, Mrs. Rustin McIntosh, Mrs. George Picken, Mrs. Viggo Rambusch, and General & Mrs. Miles Reber. It included a tour of the Tyringham Art Gallery, Rake Mill, Town Hall, library, store, school, Church, Howard Farm, Shaker Settlement, and the McLennan gardens. Blaine Litell wrote the release for the Berkshire County Historical Society Bulletin and the Rev. Vesta Thompson printed the historical brochure. This is now on sale at the Library. About $400 was cleared from the tour.

Two thousand dollars was appropriated from the Club's accumulated savings for the Parsonage Fund for use in rehabilitating the Parsonage. Under the very capable leadership of Grace Slater, the interior of the Parsonage was restored and made very attractive and comfortable. The kitchen was modernized and all the rooms were redecorated with most of the work being done by many townspeople who contributed long hours of work and materials and equipment. A new furnace was installed, foundation and roof were repaired, and a wire fence was put up for the Thompson dogs. Ken Jones was in charge of the exterior work on the house as well as of the heating, plumbing, and electrical work. Rev. Thompson and her father, Frank Balsor, donated the following materials and labor: built linen closet with louvered door in dining room; furnished plywood and built bedroom closet upstairs; furnished imitation brick and mounted same between cabinets and counters in kitchen; bought and installed three towel bars for bathroom; furnished and had installed wall-to-wall carpet in dining room, bathroom, study, downstairs bedroom, living room, hall and stairs; built utility closet off side porch and furnished plywood and window for same; furnished materials and built wooden fence at end of driveway; had old barn door removed and face of barn remodeled including a new 16 foot fiber glass overhead door. Appreciation and thanks go to all listed below for their time and effort and for materials contributed: Carolyn Canon, Margaret Clapp, Irma Clark, Pat Clark, Karen Cosel, Deanna Curtin, Maggie Curtin, Nicky Emerson, Bill Fennelly, Dick Fennelly, Marilyn Fennelly, Alan Garner, Arnold Hale, Donald Hale, George Hale, Stephen Hale, Willis Hale, Sarah Hudson, Berta Jones, Ken Jones, Fred Judd, Bruce Logan, Roger Logan, Richard Loring, Milly McIntosh, Rusty McIntosh, Catha Rambusch, Judy Reber, Elizabeth Slater, Grace Slater, Alice Thain, Bill Thober, Blanche Thober, Eddie Twing, Helen Twing, Barbara Van Orman, Kate Van Orman.

Note: Anyone wishing to become a member of the Hop Brook Community Club is cordially invited to do so. For information please call either Milly McIntosh or Judy Reber.

(B. T.)

NEW YOUNGSTERS IN TYRINGHAM

DONALD (HALE) BIENVENUE

June 16, 1974

KRISTIE ANN CLARK

November 4, 1973

STEPHEN CURTIN

December 7, 1973

APRIL SLATER *MIKE CURTIN*

May 1974 *Nov. 27 1973*

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Union Church in Tyringham, Massachusetts, in the interests of the church and community

SPRING AND SUMMER, 1975

Judy Reber: General News
Sue Choquette: Youth News
Blanche Thober: Hop Brook Club News
Alice Thain: Photographer

Dear Folks:-

Before we launch into the many news items we shall present here for your delectation, we would like to inform our readers that TYRINGHAM TOPICS has become a semi-annual publication, the issues coming out in June and December of each year. If major social and civic events occur after the 15th of May or the 15th of December, please be assured that they will appear in the next TOPICS issue. If the news is not quite so current as we would like it, it is still news, and interesting to our readers. By the way, the superb typing job in final form is done by our minister, the Rev. Vesta L. Thompson.

Right after last Christmas, the Rev. Thompson returned to her former city of Ormond Beach, Fla., for a three-month period. There she taught a class, of up to 100, in Advanced Bible Study. After three months of hard, but rewarding work with her class, Mrs. Thompson, her father, 4 dogs and a cat, returned to Tyringham. Her first service was on Palm Sunday, March 23rd. The palms were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Judd, and we thank them for this gracious gesture. (Myrtle the Turtle emerged from her shell long enough to grumble that she wished Spring had arrived at the same time and in the same fashion as Mrs. Thompson--with warmth and enthusiasm. Myrtle says she won't soon forget how long the Winter was this year--with its marrow-chilling winds, its torrential rains, and soggy earth. "Quite outstayed its welcome", was her terse comment.) But to abandon Myrtle and whimsy for the moment, all of Tyringham, parishoners and friends, young and old, join together in a warm and sincere welcome to our minister upon her return. We've missed her.

CRADLE CORNER:--To Julia (Judy Miller) and Dennis Moore, on July 12, 1974, a daughter Tess. The maternal grandparents are Ted and Helena Gilder Miller..... To Comfort (Gilder) and Camp Gordinier, on November 25, 1974, a son, Jeremy Gilder Gordinier.....A son, Caleb Richard, was born on April 9, 1975, to Lynn (Bertelli) and Stephen Cabral.....A son, Jerome, on April 14, 1975, to Shirley (Pierce) and Jerry Olettet; the grandparents are May (Williams) and Edward Pierce; the great-grandmother is our own Helen Butler; and the great-great-grandmother is Helen's mother, Ida M. Leppanen. FIVE generations. Rousing cheers!

CHRISTENINGS AND DEDICATIONS:--On Sunday, December 17, 1974, the Rev. Thompson christened and dedicated Chad Kenneth Williams, son of Albert and Karen (Winters) Williams. On Sunday, April 6, 1975, Connie Marie Heath, daughter of Herbert Heath, Jr., and Deborah (Haddad) Heath, was christened and dedicated by the Rev. Thompson.

BELLES AND WEDDING BELLS:--On Saturday, May 24th, Holly McLennan was married to Jeff Wheelwright Jr. in the Tyringham Union Church, with only members of the families (45!), and friends of the bride and groom attending. Jeff is a TV producer for Channel 13, on the program "Behind the Lines". The Rev. Vesta L. Thompson and William McLennan, Jr., officiated at the ceremony.

On Sunday, May 25th, Phillipa Claude, daughter of Mrs. Joy Treat and Dr. Alphonse Claude of Belgium, was wed in the Tyringham Union Church to Antony Stretton, who is English. The Rev. Camp Gordinier officiated.

DEPARTMENT OF HORRIBLE OVERSIGHT:--In all the confusion and hurly-burly of trying to get out the last issue of TOPICS, we omitted mention of the wedding of one of the town's most prominent young matrons---Sue Slater Choquette. Sue married Bob on June 8, 1974, and we take this opportunity to make amends by wishing them a very happy First Anniversary! However, anniversaries will NOT, as a rule, appear in this paper.

DEATHS:--We received a clipping to the effect that Ashwell Bliss (Pete) Heath, died on December 26, 1974. He was born in Tyringham, but later lived in Norfolk, Va. He was a Navy veteran, and a shipbuilder. Our sincere condolences go to his widow, Dolores Schulenberg Heath, and the members of his family.

Of great sadness is the sudden and untimely death, at the age of 41, of Mrs. Martin (Bradway) Clark, on April 15, 1975. There are many who mourn her, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to her husband and family.

In January of this year, in Stuart, Fla., Miss Gladys A. Sheldon, died at the home of her sister, Mrs. Ruth Duvernois, formerly of Tyringham. Miss Sheldon was also the aunt of Holley Darey, of our town. Our sympathy is extended to the members of Miss Sheldon's family.

TOWN HALL GETS FACE-LIFT, PLUS! On Sunday, December 8, 1974, between 2 and 5 in the afternoon, Tyringhamites were invited to the dedication of the newly renovated Town Hall. From the dreary, dismal structure it has been for so many years, it now possesses an entirely different appearance. The outside of the building was touched up; inside, Colonial-type wallpaper was utilized; three of the offices are finished in walnut panelling, while the meeting room is old birch. A complete paint job was done upstairs; the stage was re-modeled; and the floors sanded and refinished. Sheet-rock ceilings are now in every room. Electric heat is used in the offices and halls, although the meeting room is still heated by the old furnace. A kitchenette with sink and stove is in the meeting room, and is available to any town groups who wish to use the Hall for meetings. In the basement, stone walls were removed and replaced with concrete. Wall-to-wall carpeting is in all the offices, one of which contains a large safe, which might very well serve for Town records. The work was entirely under the supervision of our local firm, Beaver Builders. The Town Hall Committee had as its Chairman, Richard Loring, plus the following members: James Curtin, Francis Darey, Edward Fennelly, and Douglas Leach. Norman G.A. Day, formerly of Tyringham, but now residing in Lenox, was the architect. "Norm" donated the stage curtain, and the 4-H Club presented us with the flag, which is now onstage. To the Town Hall Committee, the 4-H-ers, Norm, and all who had any part in Project Town Hall, we extend our thanks and appreciation.

We're happy to report that Bill Fennelly, who in the recent past suffered two broken legs (move over Jesse Pierce!), in addition to undergoing critical lung surgery, is now well on the road to recovery. Bill wishes to thank all his friends and neighbors for their kind thoughts and deeds during his hospital stay and recuperation.

Early in January the Union Church held its Annual Meeting, with the election of the following Church Officers: Charles Slater, Moderator; Alice Thain, Clerk; Willis Fennelly, Treasurer; Arnold Hale, Deacon; Millicent McIntosh, Deaconess; Irma Clerk, Member-at-Large; Rustin McIntosh, Auditor; Judy Reber, Trustee; Rustin McIntosh, Finance Committee; Elizabeth Slater, Nominating Committee; Susan Choquette, Sunday School Superintendent; Helen Curtin, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent; Beatrice Loring, Delegate; and Ruth Heath, Alternate.

And speaking of elections---our own Town Clerk, Alice M. Hale, was recently elected President of the newly-formed Berkshire County Clerks Association. This organization takes in 32 municipalities of Berkshire County, and was formed to enable Town Clerks to meet and discuss problems that are unique to our County. Meetings will take place in February and November of each year. Congratulations, Alice!

It's good to hear the Valley Vlub has been re-activated. Elections were held recently and the officers are as follows: President, Barbara Adams; Vice President, Sue Choquette; Secretary, Dot Choquette; and Treasurer, Betty Cernik. The Club meets on the last Monday of each month, at 7:30 P.M., in the Town Hall. Refreshments are served after the meeting. Anyone interested in joining the Club is most cordially invited to do so.

Upon her return from Florida, our minister, the Rev. Thompson, conducted a six-week Bible Study Group. These Bible Studies were held in different homes in the valley, and coffee and delicious refreshments were served after the study hour. The subject of this study was Angelology, and the group members listened spell-bound at Mrs. Thompson's knowledge of her subject, scope, and delivery. Seventeen members attended the course. There will be another six-week Bible Class in the Autumn.

On Easter Sunday, two handsome silver candle-lighters were dedicated to the loving memory of the late Mrs. Isabel Stanton by the Curtin family and friends. On their first occasion, the grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. John Curtin---Jamie, Terrence, and Gerald---were the acolytes. It is felt that this beautiful and solemn rite adds appreciably to our Sunday service. The acolytes will vary from month to month.

Kelly Cole, son of Mrs. Maria Cole Devore, is a sophomore at the Kent School in Connecticut. He has recently had the leading roles in two plays produced at the school--as Nathan Detroit in "Guys and Dolls", and as Felix in "The Odd Couple". On each occasion Kelly received standing ovations from wildly enthusiastic audiences. However, coming down to earth a bit, his mother says he will spend this summer working in the kitchen at Morgan House, of which Maria and Gary Devore are proprietors. That's all right, Kelly, while you're slicing an onion, or shampooing a dish, you can always dream of still further successes "on the boards"! His twin sisters, Timolin and Casey Cole, have been taking English riding lessons at Aspinwall, and recently have won ribbons at the Overmead Horse Show at Kimball's in Lenox, and on other occasions, too. Good going, girls!

All of us owe a vote of thanks to two hard-working men. When it's Winter, and the winds are roaring down the valley at 45 m.p.h., and the snow is falling thick and fast, and it's 3:00 A.M. and later, and the rest of us are curled up in snug, warm beds, they are out there repeatedly toiling up and down the roads with plow and sand, making it all easier for us with the coming of the day. This is dedicated work. Who are they? Richard Loring and Bruce Logan! Thank you for your past labors on our behalf, Richard and Bruce. We know we can count on you.

Katherine McLennan has been made Co-Chairman of the Tanglewood Friends Committee..... John McLennan is now Overseer of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. This means a lot of hard work, but they are both more than up to it. Angelica (McLennan) and her husband Phillipe Syp, and baby Miranda, will go to France for the summer to visit Phillipe's parents. Jennifer Bishop is graduating from Phillips Academy in Andover in June; her plans for the summer are still indefinite.

Our town now boasts an Historical Commission of its own. This was established by our Selectmen at the request of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Its principal purpose is to compile an inventory of sites in Tyringham, which may be of either National or local importance, historically. The Commission is also endeavoring to assemble the Town Records. The Commission is composed of the following: Bill Thober, Chairman; Fred Judd, Alice Hale, Agnes Curtin, and John McLennan.

The Tyringham Selectmen have also appointed a Bicentennial Commission, the members being as follows: Millicent McIntosh, Alice Hale, Jean Brown, and Judy Reber. What our Project is to be, with respect to our country's 200th birthday, is still in the "talking" stage. Undoubtedly we will have more to report to our readers in the next issue of Tyringham Topics.

"CAP'S" CORNER:-When an informal pool was taken as to whether we wanted Myrtle the Turtle to continue as counsellor and adviser to those who took over the publishing of TYRINGHAM TOPICS from Cap Couch, the response was a resounding "Yes!" From Cap we then received the following letter in this regard: "I have asked our foster daughter, Myrtle the Turtle, if she would like to work with you good folks on TYRINGHAM TOPICS and her bosom swelled with such pride that she nearly busted her shell. She said that of course she loved all Tyringham folks so much, she'd be glad to help. She hinted, though, that she thought it would be nice if the dear ladies of the Hop Brook Club made her an Honorary Member. (Myrtle, consider yourself an Honorary Member as of this very moment!) To continue Cap's letter.... "And, humbly, may I say that if I can help out in any way, I always stand ready to help my Tyringham Family." Thank you, Cap. Our former pastor is occupied with Dalton-Doings, and keeping quite busy. Ruth is also busy, and is looking forward to their next trip-by-ship. Good luck and "bon voyage" to you both!

AT THE VERY LAST MINUTE:--Nort Canon has had a painful accident while operating his riding-mower. He was rushed to P.G.H. for a rather long operation, but latest reports indicate he is recovering splendidly. Best wishes from all of us, Nort!

Under the direction of our stalwart Firemen, the Valley Club and the two 4-H Clubs did a masterful job of cleaning up the Tyringham roadside of an accumulation of old tossed-out cans and other unlovely objects. When the job was finished, they partook of doughnuts (furnished by the Valley Club), and soda (donated by the Firemen). We're grateful to all of them for helping to beautify our town.

(Judy Reber, Reporter).

OUT-OF-TOWN NEWS:--Dr. Gulielma Alsop visited Tyringham in the fall, staying for several weeks with Carolyn Canon. Her interest in the Valley, and her concern for the church and the young people, are as strong as ever. At the age of 90 she still takes a walk every day.

John DuBois is living and practising medicine in Rye, N. Y. His wife Adrienne is working on reading with problem children. They have two girls and a boy.

Bill and Connie Dyer are very active in the Barrington, R. I., Congregational Church. Bill has retired from scouting, and is operating a Scout Self Service Store in Providence. In addition he repairs old clocks (about four a week!) and does "a bit of commercial photography". Connie works at Metropolitan Life, and "has gone head over heels into decoupage".

Helen Gaisford writes that her son John is getting a Master's degree in Social Work at Syracuse University. She herself is secretary to the chief counselor at the University.

Isabel Stanton McCarthy writes that Charley is still, after 32 years, working for G.E. Douglas, their son, has been in the Air Force for 20 years, stationed at Offutt Air Base, Omaha, and this year graduated from the University of Nebraska.

Francesca Gilder Palmer has a far-traveled family. John Pappenheimer, her son-in-law, went to India last summer to attend International Physiological meetings. Her son Kay is chief officer of the Chase Bank in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; he and his family visited her last summer.

(Millicent McIntosh, Reporter).

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB NEWS:--Our members and their needles have been busy all winter under the direction of Grace Slater in preparation for the annual fair to be held on Wednesday, August 6th. In addition to Grace Slater's beautiful patchwork quilts (there will be five of them this year), there will be velvet patchwork pillows, patchwork placemats, satin covered coat hangers, beautifully decorated yardstick holders, aprons, and many other attractive and useful articles. As usual there will also be a food table with lots of delicious home-made goodies, a rummage table, "antiques", and many other bargains. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar.

Left to right: Grace Slater (Treas.), Judy Reber (Pres.) and Anne Davis all working on items to be sold at the Church Fair, August 6, 1975.

The Hop Brook Club has volunteered to organize the Tyringham 1976 Bicentennial celebration. The program is now in the planning stage, but by the next issue we should be able to make a report which we are sure will be worth looking forward to. The Club furnished a new door for the Church Community Center - 1-3/4" thick of solid mahogony.

After our January 30th meeting, the members adjourned for a delicious lunch at the Morgan House, which as everyone knows is now under the ownership and direction of our member Maria Devore, and her husband Gary. It was such an enjoyable occasion that we hope to have more such lunches.

The letter quoted below is an interesting postscript to the report in the previous issue of TYRINGHAM TOPICS on our historic tour last August. This was published in a Springfield paper and sent to us by a friend in Longmeadow:

> *When I visited Springfield recently, I followed a suggestion offered in your Weekend Mini-Tour column. Because I thoroughly enjoyed the recommended Tyringham Tour, I thought I should thank you for introducing me to it.*
>
> *The historic buildings and landmarks were well worth seeing, but the graciousness of the hosts and hostesses certainly enhanced the experience.*
>
> *If I am up Springfield way next summer, I'll be looking for that column.*
>
> *Sister Joan Marie, O.S.U.*
> *Bronx, N. Y.*

(Blanche Thober, Reporter).

YOUTH NEWS:--Members of the Crystal Brook Dairy-Beef 4-H, under the leadership of Mrs. Charles Slater, Sr., have been keeping busy working on projects for exhibition at the Hancock Fair to be held in August. Some members are raising and training calves, while others are raising rabbits. Another member, Parker Fennelly, will be raising capons.

Meetings have been held the first Friday of each month, though lately, get-togethers have been more difficult due to the new schedule of double session classes in grades 5 through 8. At the last meeting, 10 members were present. Miss Debbie Plimpton of the 4-H County Extension Service presented a talk on the care and training of animals for exhibition. The date of the next meeting is to be announced.

With the coming of warmer weather comes also another season of horse shows for the 4-H Tyr-Lee Rough Riders. Different members have participated in various shows, and according to report, have done quite well.

During the winter months, regular meetings were held, and a stable check was taken in January. In March, Bob Clark attended a horse conference at the University of Mass., and in the same month, he and Betty Prinz, with the help of the county agent, held a horse judging training session. Later on, Bob participated in the 4-H Horse Judging Contest in Lakeville, Conn. as one of the official judges.

On May 3, the Rough Riders held a movie on quarter horses, which was attended by various county clubs, and later in the month, another movie on equitation was presented by the county horse agent. A 4-H record training program was also held, and dealt with the "how-to's" of filling out records for various projects.

On Sunday, May 18, the Rough Riders along with the firemen conducted a roadside cleanup campaign. Refreshments after the cleanup were provided by the Valley Club.

The Club is presently engaged in a study of veterenarian science under the direction of Dr. Breslin. They are now also preparing for Rally Day, an event to be held the third weekend in June. Various county clubs will be participating.

Bob Clark - President, Youth Fellowship

THE TYRINGHAM YOUTH FELLOWSHIP, reorganized last fall by the Rev. Vesta Thompson, has been very active ever since. Following their presentation of the Christmas tableau at the Union Church Candlelight Service in December, the group's next project was the preparation of a special Sunday service held on March 16. The service was presented as an "Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing," with a goodly number of worshippers in attendance.

Despite threatening weather, two weeks later, on Easter Sunday, the Youth Group held their annual Easter Egg Hunt. Approximately 30 screaming, scrambling children participated in the search for chocolate eggs, jelly beans, and grand prizes. A very special appearance was made by the Easter Bunny himself. The Youth Group would like to thank the Valley Club for providing chocolate rabbit lollipops distributed by the Easter Bunny at a preview of the Easter Egg Hunt given at the Tyringham Grade School the previous Thursday.

The Tyringham Youth Fellowship also wishes to extend their thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Millicent McIntosh and Mrs. Blanche Thober for providing refreshments at regular meetings. Gratitude is also extended to Mrs. Hazel Pothul for her help and contributions concerning the making of articles for the summer sale.

During bad weather, the Fellowship met twice a month, but now that good weather has returned, meetings are held weekly. All youth from sixth grade through high school are invited to attend.

This past Christmas season, the children of Tyringham Grade School presented their annual Christmas program at the Town Hall, under the direction of teacher Miss Maureen Walsh and teacher's aide, Miss Joann Skrocki. Poems, songs, recitations, and a play entitled "It's Christmas All Over the Place" were presented to the public. Following the program, a very special appearance was made by Santa Claus, who passed out presents to all the youngsters. Santa's visit was followed by the distribution of Christmas candy donated by the Hop Brook Club, and oranges, which were donated by the Valley Club.

On Thursday, May 29, the children of Tyringham School will present their annual Memorial Day program at the cemetery, weather providing. Recitations and poems will be presented concerning the origin and significance of Memorial Day. Parker Fennelly will recite the Gettysburg Address.

(Sue Choquette, Reporter).

Kerry Clark (one of Tyringham Youth Fellowship) making palm crosses to distribute on Palm Sunday 1975

March 16, 1975 Morning Worship Service conducted by Tyringham Youth Fellowship in Union Church, Tyringham.

Christmas Tableau presented by Tyringham Youth Fellowship at Union Church, Tyringham on December, 1974

One of two silver candle-lighters given in memory of Mrs. Isabel Stanton by the Curtin family and friends.

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Union Church in Tyringham, Massachusetts, in the interests of the church and community

AUTUMN AND WINTER 1975

Blanche Thober: Hop Brook Club News Millicent McIntosh: Out-of-Town News

Judy Reber: General News Sue Choquette: Youth News

Alice Thain: Photographer

-oOo-

Dear Folks:-

Gilded summer has flown. Fond memories of it are with us still. But late Autumn has taken over now, and Winter lurks only around the next corner. Before their falling leaves had made a crunching carpet for our feet, the trees in the valley and on hillside delighted our eyes with their varied and brilliant colors. Autumn in New England is a time of gorgeously flaming foliage--unequaled anywhere. Aren't we lucky!

Our minister, the Rev. Vesta L. Thompson, will shortly be leaving us for the sunshine and balmy breezes of Florida. There she again will take up the teaching of a Bible Class for her former parishioners at Ormand Beach. She will resume her duties in Tyringham on April 1, 1976. Her last service at Union Church for this year will be the Candlelight Service on Sunday, December 21st. Our best wishes go with Mrs. Thompson, and may she have happy times among her old friends and acquaintances in the Sunny Southland.

* * *

Cradle Corner:--Katharine McLennan's daughter, Susan, and her husband Robert Uchitel, are the proud parents of a daughter, Rachel, born on January 30, 1975, in Anchorage, Alaska. . .A son, Michael T., was born to Lee Ann and Timothy Puntin of Lake Side Drive, on September 27th. The maternal grandmother is Mrs. Florence Saltarelli, and the maternal grandfather is Martin Saltarelli. The paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Attillio Puntin. . .To Eugene and Nancy Curtin of Baltimore, Md., a son, Kevin Carl, was born on October 20th. The paternal grandmother is Mary Curtin of Main Road, Tyringham. . ."Cissy" (Janice Whalen) Curtin has presented her husband John Curtin Jr. with their second son, Mark Jonathan, on November 9th. The maternal grandparents are Joseph and Marian Whalen, and the paternal grandparents are Helen and Neil Curtin.

Christenings & Dedications:--On August 3rd the Rev. Thompson officiated at the christening and dedication of Michael Curtin, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Curtin Jr.

Belles & Wedding Bells:--On June 28th Miss Ingrid Hernandez, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pablo Hernandez of Venezuela, was married to James H. McIntosh, son of Dr. and Mrs. Rustin McIntosh of our town. The wedding took place in New Haven, Conn.

On September 20th Miss Susan Margaret Cabral, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Cabral, became the bride of Edwin Harry Lester of Stockbridge. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Lester of Pine Bush, N. Y. The ceremony took place in St. Mary's Church, Lee.

Miss Mary H. McCusker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. McCusker of Pittsfield, was married to Shaun M. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Smith, Tyringham. Our minister, the Rev. Thompson, officiated at the ceremony, which took place in the Union Church on October 11th.

On November 15th Miss Martha E. Birkett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Birkett of Tyringham, was married to Allan E. Joyner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley E. Joyner of Lenox. The wedding took place in the Tyringham Union Church, with the Rev. Robert S. S. Whitman, Rector of Trinity Church in Lenox, officiating, assisted by the Rev. Vesta Thompson.

Deaths:--On August 15th Harry Loring of our town died after a short illness. He held many town offices over the years, including that of Selectman for three years. He was Chairman of the Appeals Board from 1968 until a short time before his death. We regret his passing, and his family is assured of our sympathy.

Mrs. Cornelia Birkett, a native Vermonter, and mother of Richard E. Birkett of Tyringham, died at the Berkshire Hills North Nursing Home in Lee on August 17th at the age of 101. It is not often that we record the death of a "centenarian," since passing the 100-year mark is a rare event indeed. Our sympathy to the Birkett family.

* * *

In the last issue of TOPICS mention was made of two lovely silver Church candlelighters, given in memory of the late Mrs. Isabel Stanton. Appropriate thanks were extended to the "Curtin family and friends," but through an oversight no mention was made of the very generous contribution toward the gift of Charles and Isabel (Stanton) McCarthy of Gainesville, Fla. Your reporter regrets the omission.

* * *

On August 9th the Tyringham Fire Co. held its annual block dance and steak roast at the town park. The food was up to its usual high standards, and the wives of our firemen looked very pretty behind the various serving tables. The dance music was provided by The Sounds of Country Plus Orchestra. Without going into any financial details, Joe Whalen, Fire Chief, pronounced the event a great success. He also informed us that, entirely with volunteer work by the firemen themselves, a new roof was placed on the firehouse. Some grading around the building has also been done. The work is not yet entirely finished, but the men hope to accomplish this before the onset of cold weather. All the firemen participated in this worthwhile work, which resulted in the saving of quite a large sum of money. A fitting finale to this dedicated, volunteer project was a barbecue, which was held for all the workers and their families. Readers all, support your Volunteer Fire Company! We need them.

The Rev. Thompson conducted a Bible Class this Fall, similar to the one of last Spring. It was in the nature of a Bible Study-Coffee Hour, and the subject was "The Parables of Jesus." A most enjoyable and informative time was had by all.

Tanglewood enthusiasts will be pleased to know that Katharine McLennan and her Committee, at the recent annual meeting of the Council of Friends, announced very satisfying gains in funds raised, and increased membership, for the last year. Katharine will co-chair this Committee for one more year.... Scotty McLennan was ordained on November 30th. He will be working as a minister and as a lawyer for the Association of Unitarian Churches in Boston, through which he will act as legal aide for the poor. Very unusual to be both a minister and a lawyer.... Jennifer has started her Freshman year at Johns Hopkins.

The Moffett family are getting a taste of year-round living in Tyringham. Chris has taken a year's leave of absence from his Boston law firm. He and Anne are engaged in preparing a scholarly catalogue of the contents of Naumkeag, the home of the late Joseph Hodges Choate, in Stockbridge. If they are successful in obtaining a Federal grant, they hope to publish an illustrated catalogue. The Moffett children are happily enrolled in the Berkshire Country Day School.

Don Hale, a local building contractor, suffered a very serious and painful accident early in August at one of his building sites. He was bedridden for many weeks; is now on crutches; and hopes to be off them in early December. Best wishes for your recover, Don!

* * *

"CAP'S' CORNER:--Cap's letter to us is quoted in full, as follows: "My message to all my old friends--and younger--in Tyringham must be quite brief this time, simply on account of my spending 80 days in and out of hospitals in an illness that almost ended my abode on this terrestrial sphere. Now, thanks to my devoted wife, who, with a good doctor, brought me through the critical weeks, I am on the road to recovery; and, above all, I am of course grateful to a good God. My message to you all in Tyringham and elsewhere is that I am sorry I have been unable to send my sympathy to all of you who have met with sorrow in your families, and to congratulate those who have been blessed with happiness. I am sure you all know that I share with you in sorrow, or joys and accomplishments.

"As for my doings, I have retired from active Church work, and have been designated and truly honored by being given the title of Assistant Minister Emeritus of the First Congregational Church of Dalton. I am Chairman of Dalton's American Revolutionary War Bicentennial Commission, composed of sixty people, very active, but being conducted until I am able to work at it by three vice-chairmen. (Interruption by Myrtle the Turtle: In July Cap was awarded the Massachusetts American Legion Joseph J. Conway Memorial Community Service Award in recognition of his service to the Legion and to the community. How about that?)

"A very Merry Christmas and may God bless each and all of you is the greeting of my good wife Ruth, myself, and Myrtle the Turtle, who is typing this for me. And my deep appreciation to all of you, who, knowing of my illness, showed concern by visit, or by card or letter. F.L.C."

With Myrtle the Turtle leading the cheering section, all of us join in a resounding "Good luck, Cap--and hurry and get well!"

Last Minute Comment Before Press-Time:--Special thanks to Irma Clark and her daughter, Kerry, who, for many years, have addressed and stamped the TOPICS for mailing; and to Irma, Carolyn Canon, and Millie McIntosh for collecting money and names for the Christmas List.

And last, but not least, a really BIG bouquet for summer resident Catha Rambusch, who, in the past several years, has gone all out in helping the Hop Brook Club put over its Annual Summer Fair. No job was beneath her, nor was any too big for her to tackle. In performance she rates A-1, and the Club is unanimous in its deep appreciation of her work. Thank you, Catha! (Judy Reber, Reporter)

-oOo-

OUT-OF-TOWN: Dr. Gulielma Alsop writes that she is now 94. This summer she was in Tyringham for her niece's wedding. When she returned home, she was bitten on both feet by a young copperhead. "I did actually go to bed then, but only for a day"! She is now spending some time with her niece, Lee Shepard Judge, in Wilder, Vermont.

Mrs. Crook, our former organist, writes: "Miss seeing all you nice people."

Ruth Duvernois writes from Stuart, Fla.: "Warm greetings to friends in the Valley."

Kay and Lisa Palmer are still in Rio with their daughter, Helena; their son Tonio is at the Kent School in Connecticut.

Hylie Palmer Pappenheimer and John are in Oxford, England, where John holds the distinguished Eastman Professorship.

(M.C.McI, Reporter)

-oOo-

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB NEWS: Our Annual Summer Fair, Food & Rummage Sale, held on August 6th, netted the Club $2,200. This was the first time we topped $2,000!! When you receive this issue of TYRINGHAM TOPICS, our Thanksgiving fair will have taken place. This year the food table featured pies for Thanksgiving.

At our September meeting Grace Slater's birthday was observed and a gift of a Tensor lamp was presented to her from all the members as a token of appreciation for all she has done for the Club and the community. We then adjourned to the Red Lion Inn for a delicious lunch to celebrate the event.

As we promised in the last issue of TYRINGHAM TOPICS, here is a report of some of our plans for the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration: As part of the 1976 celebration the Hop Brook Community Club voted last spring to work on a new short history of the town. They appointed as members of a committee Jean Brown, Alice Hale, Millicent McIntosh, and Judy Reber. This committee was officially approved by the Selectmen. It has been organized as a working group with Milly McIntosh as chairman, and John McLennan and Bill Thober to represent the Town Historical Commission. Blaine Littell has been appointed Editor, and Katharine McLennan, Clinton Elliott, Gerald Swart, and Rustin McIntosh have been recruited as volunteer workers. It is hoped that others will join the group as needs emerge.

The Hop Brook Club has engaged Sherry Gaherty of Dalton, a graduate of SUNY School of Library Science, to do part-time research on the original documents. The committee plans to put together an informal, anecdotal, illustrated (and we hope very readable) account of the early town.

In addition, we plan to hold our summer fair on Saturday, July 3, and to make it a Colonial Fair (work has already started on quilts of old colonial designs). Also, we will cooperate with Mrs. Thompson who is planning a Colonial Church Service on July 4.

(Blanche Thober, Reporter)

-oOo-

YOUTH NEWS: Since the commencement of school this fall, the Youth Fellowship of Union Church has been meeting regularly and has been keeping quite busy. Their first major project was the preparation of the annual Halloween UNICEF drive. Every member of the group worked and planned for weeks to make the evening a success. A total of $36.42 was collected by Trick-or-Treaters traveling door to door. The night was perfect--cold, windy, and eerie, so the group of goblins and ghouls all returned to the Community Center to warm up with hot chocolate and 'munchkins.' The Fellowship would like to thank the Tyringham Valley Club for donating the doughnuts, and Crystal Brook Farm for donating the milk for the hot chocolate. Our thanks and appreciation also goes to those who volunteered themselves and their cars to make the rounds: Larry Cernik, Jim Fawcett, Lil Winters, and Marilyn Fennelly.

The group is now in the midst of planning a special Thanksgiving service under the direction of the Rev. Vesta Thompson. A special Thanksgiving feast will be spread, complete with Pilgrim and Indian guests. The choir will be joining the Fellowship in this unique presentation, and will dress in the appropriate attire of the first Thanksgiving.

Amidst plans for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, the members of the Fellowship have also been working individually on projects at home to be sold at the annual Hop Brook Thanksgiving Sale. Reports of the success of that sale will be published in the next issue of the TOPICS.

With the first snowfall of the season, it seems that Christmas may be in the air already, and plans are being made accordingly. A very special Christmas pageant will be presented this year at the annual Christmas Candlelight Service at Union Church. The presentation will be a joint effort of the Youth Fellowship and the Junior Choir, one we are quite sure you will not want to miss!

As always, the Youth Fellowship extends a special invitation to anyone in Grades 6 through high school who would like to join the group. The Fellowship has been very active since its reorganization last fall, and has enjoyed times of much fun and fellowship, and is always busy planning special church and community projects. Anyone interested is urged to contact Susan Choquette for more information.

* * *

The summer activities of the Crystal Brook Dairy-Beef 4-H began with a cookout at the home of Mrs. Charles Slater Sr., the group's leader. A time of good food and good fun was enjoyed by all, a perfect way to kick off the season!

The club reports of success at the annual 4-H fair in Hancock, Mass., in August. Sam Slater and John Pothul each entered a dairy cow for which each obtained a red ribbon in "fitting and showmanship." Sam also entered a rabbit, as did his sister, Marjorie. Marjorie's rabbit, Bugs Bunny, won a green ribbon, and Sam's rabbit, Snowfoot, won a blue ribbon. (Snowfoot was unofficially awarded a second blue ribbon because she ate the first!) Jennifer Pothul entered a beefer which won her a blue and

a red ribbon. Jennifer was also awarded the S.P.C.A. Gentle Hands Award for exhibiting the most care and gentleness in handling her animal. This was indeed a great honor as only two such awards were given, one to a junior, and one to a senior class exhibitor. The club is truly to be commended for such a fine job, as this was the first attempt of the club in such an activity, and all the members were novices at handling their animals in such a manner.

On Saturday, November 15th, the club held a meeting to elect officers. The following were elected for the coming year: John Pothul, president; Sam Slater, vice president; Jennifer Pothul, treasurer; Parker Fennelly, secretary; Matthew Curtin, news reporter; and Steven Pothul, program planner. Meetings are held the first Saturday of each month at the home of Mrs. Slater. All members be on the lookout for information concerning a club Christmas party!

The annual 4-H capon dinner, sponsored by the Lee Kiwanis Club, was held at the East Lee Steak House on November 18th. First prize was awarded to Parker Fennelly of the Crystal Brook Dairy-Beef 4-H Club. Amy and Everett Fennelly of the Tyr-Lee Rough Riders 4-H Club won second and third prizes.

(Sue Choquette, Reporter)

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Union Church in Tyringham, Massachusetts, in the interests of the church and community

SPRING & SUMMER, 1976.

Reporters: Sue Choquette -- Millicent McIntosh -- Judy Reber

Once upon a time a poet said, "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" It is apparent that the gentleman was not a resident of the Berkshires. Be that as it may, in the recent past we've experienced some rather topsy-turvy weather: In April the thermometer soared into the 90's; and in early and mid-May, down to the low 30's and a "wet snow" evernight. The "Berkshire Eagle's" weatherman must be in a constant state of ferment to know just what weather conditions to predict. However, as we write this, Spring has again asserted herself: the leaves on the trees display that tender green color of early spring; tulips and jonquils abound; the lilac blooms are coming into being; and the grass is growing greener all the time!

The Rev. Vesta L. Thompson returned to assume her duties in the Tyringham Union Church on March 22nd. She had completed her scheduled classes in Florida. Mrs. Thompson came back brimful of her usual vigor, and full of plans for the church's participation in the town's Bicentennial Celebration activities.

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CRADLE CORNER:

On April 24th, a son, Jason Zachary to Allan E. and Martha (Birkett) Joyner. The maternal grandparents are Richard and Georgia Birkett of the Main Road, Tyringham; the paternal grandparents, Stanley and Claudine Joyner of Lenox.

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BELLES AND WEDDING BELLS:

Deborah L. Loring, daughter of Richard and Dorothy Loring of our town, was married to James Daugherty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Daugherty of Austin, Texas. The wedding took place on April 24th at the home of the bride's parents, with the Rev. Vesta L. Thompson officiating.

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DEATHS:

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Richard W. Fennelly, who died at his home on December 8, 1975. Two positions he held in town affairs during his lifetime were highway department superintendent and town assessor.

DEATHS:

Mrs. Ida N. Leppanen, age 89, who lived with her daughter Mrs. Helen Butler of Jerusalem Road, died after a long illness. Our sympathy is also extended to Mrs. Butler and her family.

It is with sadness that we record the death, at 32, of Phillip Heath, grandson of Mr. John Heath of the Main Road, Tyringham. Our sympathy to all his family.

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Once again the staff of TOPICS must tender a public apology! In the 1975 Christmas List, somewhere along the line, the names of the Bienvenue family of Goose Pond, and the Charles McCarthys of Gainesville, Fla., were omitted. Since we cannot pin-point the blame, we hang our collective head.

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A signal honor has been accorded to one of our town residents--- Jean Brown (Mrs. Leonard Brown). Jean, who has archives of 20th Century art in her home (the former Shaker Seed House), has been listed in "Who's Who in America", "Who's Who in American Art", "The Directory of American Art", and "The American Library Directory". Her collections are international in scope, and are visited by scholars and researchers from the United States, Europe, Asia, and South America. Congratulations, Jean!

Our new Town Post Office came into being on December 5, 1975. This was a change-over from our previous second-class Post Office, which had been in existence for many, many years. The town now runs a Community Post Office; the work therein is divided between Alice Slater and Toni Twing, and both girls tackle the job in a spirit of cheerful cooperation.

James and Kathleen Curtin of the Main Road are making some alterations to their home which will enable them to operate a small store, which they intend to call "Tyringham General". Kathleen reports that they hope to open for business the first week in June. They plan on having a Coffee Bar, and quite a number of staples will be on sale too.

As a project for the town's Bicentennial Year, the Valley Club has presented the town with a handsome new Bulletin Board. In order to raise money for their project, club members conducted a Bake Sale in front of the Town Hall on Election Day, May 17th. There was a dazzling array of cakes, pies, rolls, breads, cookies, etc., displayed for sale--enough to cause the most dedicated dieter to stop cold in his tracks. The club's "take" was $86.90. Congratulations! Betty Cernik tells us that the club also voted to sponsor a float during Tyringham Bicentennial Week. (More on this subject further on.)

The Election referred to in the above paragraph resulted in the election of the following Town Officers: Moderator, Charles E. Slater; Selectman, W. Merritt McBrian; Tax Collector, Betty Jean Cernik; Cemetery Trustee, Richard O. Loring; School Committee, Kathleen Van Orman; School Committee, Georgia H. Birkett; Park Commissioner, Agnes B. Curtin; Library Trustee, Mary C. Garner; Assessor, Raymond E. Smith. The office of town Auditor remains vacant.

Continuing with elections: At the Annual Meeting of the Union Church in Tyringham, January 14, 1976, the following officers were elected: Charles E. Slater, Moderator; Alice Thain, Clerk; Georgia H. Birkett, Treasurer; Bill Thober, Deacon; Carolyn Canon, Deaconess; Kate Van Orman, Member-at-Large; Rustin McIntosh, Auditor; Ken Jones, Trustee; Willis Fennelly, Finance Committee; Irma Clark, Nominating Committee; Sue Choquette, Sunday School Superintendent; and Helen Curtin, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent.

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TRIPPERS:

Betty and Larry Cernik won a "Frigidaire Trip" recently. They spent five days at St. Maarten in the Caribbean, and had a marvellous time. Other lucky ones who fled the Frozen North last winter were the McLennans, to Florida; to the West Coast and to Venezuela, the McIntoshes; Alice Thain, to Florida; the Don Davises to Spain; and the Thobers, points South, and then West. None of them complained of chilblains.

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"Cap's" Corner:--Herewith a note to all of us from "Cap" Couch, our Pastor of yesteryear, of whom we have so many fond memories:

You good folks, old friends of mine of years ago, you cannot imagine how closely I read the EAGLE every time it has a column or even part of a column headed "TYRINGHAM".

I am still deeply interested in each and all of you and what you are doing.

I have much to tell you about Ruth and myself. But you may be interested to know that we have been recently promoted from grandparents to great-grandparents thanks to our oldest son's daughter, Deborah, in Maryland. It (excuse me), "the baby", is a girl so there is not yet a Franklin 4th.

As you may know, I am very busy as Chairman of Dalton's American Revolutionary War Bicentennial and I read with interest what you folks in Tyringham are planning. Good for you! Sounds great! And to have the Governor of Massachusetts as the Marshal is something! Our Marshal is the Sheriff of Berkshire County, which is good, too.

My good wife is fine but she has babied me so much that really I have become a sort of spoiled brat!

I still hope sooner or later to get down and see many of you for I still miss you all very much. Pittsfield seems to be my limit as of now but soon I'll be seeing you all, I hope. I just need a new pair of legs. Seems as though when one gets to be a hundred, legs give out.

Take care now and don't forget I love y'all and miss you.

"Cap"

Thanks, "Cap", for bringing us all up-to-date on Couch Doings. (Cap, your old, old friend Myrtle the Turtle has just informed us that she has reserved seats for all Bicentennial events. How about that?)

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ATTENTION EVERYBODY!!

August 1st to August 8th, inclusive, will be THE week in which the residents of Tyringham will celebrate the Bicentennial of their country. A gala time is planned, which will include everyone from Tiny Tots to Senior Citizens. On Sunday, August 1st, under the able direction of Alice Hale and Mary Garner, the Try-Lee Rough Riders will put on a Horse Show at Brown's Field. On Wednesday, August 4th, the Hop Brook Community Club will hold its Annual Fair at the Town Hall.

(continued on next page)

Bicentennial Celebration--continued:--

There will be other "doings" during the course of the week, and on Saturday, August 7th, our Fire Department (with Peter Curtin and Everett Fennelly in charge of the details), will organize a parade of ten fire companies, floats and marching bands. The parade will be led by the Hon. Michael S. Dukakis, Governor of our great Commonwealth, and son-in-law of summer residents Jane and Harry Dickson. (Mark that date on your calendar, Governor!) The firemen hope to top off this staggeringly busy day with an old-fashioned New England Clam-Bake, followed by the town's annual block-dance. On Sunday, August 8th, our minister, the Rev. Vesta L. Thompson, plans to hold a "Colonial service" in church, duplicating the type of service held 200 years ago--in everything, she promises, except the length of her sermon. In 1776 it would have lasted at least two hours!

The Youth Fellowship, directed by Sue Choquette, also hopes to have a float in the parade. Sue suggests that we all bring a picnic lunch with us to church, and after the service, foregather outdoors to eat it. After this, a Children's Festival is planned for the afternoon; and in the evening the Fellowship hopes to put on a play in the Town Hall. Doesn't all this sound marvellous? Tyringhamites, please mark your calendars accordingly, and plan to be in town for the entire celebration.

Judy Reber.

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News of Out-of Town Tyringhamites:

Connie and Bill Dyer reports: "Stay very busy, mostly on clock repair work. Bev and Jim are living in the Philadelphia area (N.J.). Jim went back into the Navy in August and is stationed in the Phila. Navy Yard. Arthur and Agnes are building a home in Cheshire, Mass."

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer W. Dodge are still living in the old colonial farmhouse that they bought in Gorham, Me. 20 years ago. They write: "Come and see us if you are ever near Portland. We are on Flaggy Mt. Road, a mile from the center of Gorham."

Mrs. Eugene Lehner writes that their son Andreas is now assistant principal of the high school in Westwood, Mass. He and Mary have a second son, Sven Thomas, born April 16, 1975.

Philip Littell has sent us a brochure announcing that he is now specializing in painting pictures of town and country houses. Phil writes that these are particularly suitable for reproduction on greeting cards and stationery.

Blaine and Penelope Littell have bought a house at 159 Concord Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. They still spend most weekends and holidays in Tyringham.

Comfort Gilder and Camp Gordinier have a second son, Andrew Cook, born on May 6th. They live in Riverside, R.I., where Camp is Associate Rector of St. James' Church.

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB:

Our Thanksgiving Sale yielded $421.25, which when added to the $2,200 from the Summer Fair made 1975 a banner year. Our discussions at meetings this winter have been chiefly concerned with our part in the Bicentennial celebration, recently taken over by the Firemen. Our Committee on the Tyringham History have been working on the Town Records, and are preparing a preliminary pamphlet to be sold this summer. It will consist of short articles on important historic institutions: Town Government (Judy Reber, Alice Hale); the Church (Clinton Elliott); the School (Jewell Hale, Millicent McIntosh); the Shaker Settlement (Gerald Swart); Ashintully (the McLennans); the Tyringham Art Gallery (Donald Davis). In addition, Bill Thober will write notes on a number of important houses which were built before 1850.

Work on a new history of Tyringham is continuing under the auspices of the same committee. The Town at its annual meeting approved a grant of $500 to finance continued research. At the moment, Sherry Gaherty is making a subject index of Mrs. Myers' "A Hinterland Settlement".

The Hop Brook Club is sponsoring the sale of Bicentennial mugs, for which Penelope Littell designed the emblem.

Millicent McIntosh.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

The members of the Youth Fellowship have kept pace with a very heavy schedule so far this year. It all actually began this past Christmas season with a musical production entitled "A Christmas Pageant" which was staged at the Union Church in Tyringham, the eve of the annual Candlelight Service. The production, which told the story of the birth of the Christ Child in music, was a great success with a large congregation in attendance. And of course, the choir also scheduled in their Christmas activities one evening of caroling through the streets to various homes to sing the songs of the season. The night was bitter and windy, but hearts were warm and glowing with the Christmas spirit. The week following Christmas, everyone got together at the home of Sue Choquette for a sledding party. There was pizza and lots of other good things to eat, singing, and of course, plenty of fun sliding on saucers, sleds, and toboggans. The day was warm and the snow just perfect, all adding up to a wonderful time of fun and fellowship for all.

Through the cold winter months the group met weekly for meetings to plan new events and to work on handcraft items. The first major project was the Fellowship's annual Easter Egg Hunt held Easter Sunday afternoon on the Union Church lawn. The Easter Bunny made a personal appearance to help the little ones find chocolate eggs and to award the three "Grand Prizes" to three lucky winners. Twenty-five youngsters from pre-school through sixth grade scrambled about to hunt for chocolate eggs, jelly beans, and the "special eggs" concealing the tickets for the grand prize winners. The day was hot and sunny, with the temperature in the 80's - no need to worry about getting rained out this year! (There was a little worrying over whether the eggs would melt before all

(continued on next page)

were found, though!) And lest the real story of Easter be lost in all the chocolate eggs and jelly beans, Rev. Thompson showed filmstrips to all the young people of the true story of Easter, the glorious truth of the Resurrection.

On the Thursday before Easter, Maundy Thursday, the Fellowship met together to observe this Holy day by fellowshiping together over the evening meal. And on Good Friday, all took part in the evening service in remembrance of Jesus' death.

The next major project of the Youth Fellowship took place the last Saturday in March when the Fellowship held their first Food, Fair, and Tag Sale. Much planning and work went into the sale, for which the young people are to be commended. Their efforts did not go unrewarded, as the day of the sale a fantastic sum of over $200 was taken in! The members of the group extend their sincere thanks to all those who contributed food and other items to the sale which helped to make it such a success.

Just a reminder to the young people - choir rehearsal is held each week, for about one hour in the evening. For the exact time each week, please contact Sue Choquette or Barbara VanOrman. The time varies each week to try to accomodate everyone, what with baseball games and practice and various other warm weather activities. But it is urged that <u>everyone</u> make a special effort to attend this important weekly practice session to prepare the special music for the Sunday Worship Service.

Sue Choquette.

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Union Church in Tyringham, Massachusetts, in the interests of the church and community

AUTUMN AND WINTER 1976

Judy Reber, General News
Sue Choquette, Youth News
Millicent McIntosh, Hop Brook Club and Out-of-Town News
Bill Cosel and Barclay Hudson, Photographers

Thanksgiving is behind us, and Christmas looms just ahead, together with its hustle and bustle, its carol-singing, its parties, its general aura of gaiety and good will, and its agonized thinking as to what to buy for Aunt Ermintrude and Uncle Ned. Exhaustion may eventually set in, but the next year we can count on embarking on the Yule Season with the same anticipation and enthusiasm--especially if there are children in the family. And while we're on the subject, the staff of TOPICS wishes everyone of our dedicated readers a Very Merry Christmas!

At the end of August, news came out that our pastor, the Rev. Vesta Thompson was resigning as of mid-October. The future of the church again became our great concern. On August 30th, in the Community Center, there was held a meeting of friends and members of the church, where an animated discussion took place. However, there was no doubt of the intent of those assembled: Overwhelmingly, we were in favor of having a church in Tyringham. The response of our younger people was indeed heart-warming; and as a consequence of their enthusiasm Mr. Richard Dubois was appointed minister on an eleven-months basis. Mr. Dubois is a third-year student at Berkshire Christian College. He was born in Saco, Maine, and attended the University of New Hampshire. He worked in tool- and die-making, and was in a managerial position when he felt a call to the ministry five years ago. With his wife Barbara and six of their seven children, they live on Fairview Street in Lee. They plan to move into the parsonage as soon as they sell their house. We believe Mr. Dubois has a great contribution to make to our community, and we hope that the wider scope envisaged for the church will be manifested in larger contributions by members and friends. As a matter of interest, the Dubois children are: Robert, 23; Ricky, 18; Eric, 16; Michelle, 13; Mark, 12; Stephen, 10; and Richard Jr., 7.

Finally, it is with real regret that we say farewell to our past minister, the Rev. Vesta Thompson. Her vigorous sermons were inspiring to us all. She has returned to Florida, where she will help establish a Bible Institute and organize a new church. Vesta, all our wishes for your success and happiness go with you. And a Merry Christmas to you and to your good father!

Cradle Corner:--Births: On September 28th, Alice (Higgins) Slater presented her husband Charles Jr. with a son and heir--Ryan Charles. The maternal grandmother is Mrs. Alice Higgins of Dalton, and the paternal grandparents are Elizabeth and Charles Slater of the Main Road.

A daughter, Anne Spring Palmer, was born on November 7th to Catherine (Sullivan) and Walter W. Palmer II. The maternal grandfather is Robert M. Sullivan of Wilbraham, and the paternal grandparents are Anne and Gilly Palmer of Main Road.

Christenings:--On June 20th, the Rev. Robert S. S. Whitman, Rector of Trinity Church in Lenox, officiated at the christening of Jason Zachary Joyner, son of Martha (Birkett) and Allan E. Joyner of Lenox.

On August 22nd, Vesta L. Thompson officiated at the christening of Erin Justine LeCompte, daughter of Ruth (Heath) and Stephen Le Compte.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--In St. Vincent de Paul Church in Lenox Dale, on September 12th, Miss Dawn Marie Cernik, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry F. Cernik of our town, became the wife of Michael R. Fredette, USAF, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Fredette of Nashua, N. H. The Rev. James O. McKenna performed the ceremony.

September seems to have been the wedding month for the Cerniks! Miss Jean Marie Lockenwitz of Lee was wed to Larry D. Cernik, also of Lee. Marie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Lockenwitz and Larry is the son of Betty and Larry Cernik. The ceremony took place in the Union Church in Tyringham, with the Rev. Vesta L. Thompson officiating.

Deaths:--One of the valley's real "old timers" died on July 10th--Mr. John F. Heath Sr., aged 89. He was a life-long resident of Tyringham. In his time he drove the "stage" for many years, drove the school bus, and was mail-carrier for the town. He retired in 1955. We extend our sympathy to his family.

On November 7th, Mrs. Roy (Candace) Heath died. She was a resident of Tyringham for many years, although eventually she and her husband moved to Lee. There she was active in the Lee Golden Agers. All her life she was interested in music and she played the piano at many parties and country dances. All our sympathy to her family, for we mourn her passing.

The Stupendous, Super-Colossal Celebration:--Tyringham celebrated the 200th Birthday of our country for eight never-to-be-forgotten days, beginning with Sunday, August 1st, and ending Sunday, August 8th. Prior to this, it should be noted that on Sunday, July 4th, the town let loose a wild clangor of bells. The schoolhouse bell was tolled by Georgia Birkett, long-time member of the School Committee, while Ken Jones, Church Committee Chairman, was responsible for the deep tones of the church bell. This was followed by a cannonade of shots. To proceed.

A short account of the opening festivities, the Horse Show of August 1st, will appear later on in this paper. The Hop Brook Community Club's Annual Fair, held on Wednesday, August 4th, was a great financial success. Unfortunately, this reporter, having worked like a galley slave for a number of days prior to the fair, came down with a full-fledged case of the flu on Thursday. So it is to be hoped that if this account seeks sketchy, all subscribers to the local papers will have cut out the various pertinent news items concerning our Celebration. For the really main events of the Bicentennial Week, we owe monumental thanks to the following: Peter Curtin, who chaired the Bicentennial Committee, which consisted also of Richard Loring and Everett Fennelly; plus Tommy Curtin, Jim Curtin, and Putt Darey, who also labored mightily. As a matter of fact, these men were so inspired by their project that they even took time off from work in order to do the splendid job they did.

The Great Day dawned, unfortunately amidst a downpour of rain, which continued off and on throughout the day. But were the spirits of the participants one bit dampened? I should say not! The Bicentennial Parade wound its way from the George Canon Road to the center of town, then up the Jerusalem Road, and ended at Brown's Field. The VFW of Lee headed the parade, followed by the Hon. Michael S. Dukakis,

Governor of our great Commonwealth, and Mrs. Dukakis under an umbrella. Passing the reviewing stand, the parade comprised a glittering galaxy of marching bands, floats, fire companies, Selectmen and other individuals (including Indians!), antique cars and antique fire trucks, horses and buggies, and much much more. Honorary Grand Marshal for the parade was the Rev. Franklin "Cap" Couch, former pastor of our church, and who was also one of the parade judges. Other judges were Ruth Couch, Agnes Curtin, Jean Brown, Ina Schnell, and John McLennan. First prize was awarded to the Curtin-Fennelly float, and second prize to the Hale float. At this point, we would like to note that many pictures of the various events were taken by Bill Cosel and Barclay Hudson, and we thank them very much for their generous contribution of time and film.

In the afternoon, there was piping by the Taconic Bagpipes; there were games and contests, and music by the Home Comforts at Brown's Field. There was an old-fashioned clambake from 5 to 8 p.m. (Our Governor himself was "snapped" placing clams, for steaming, in little mesh pouches. He's a good sport!) Everyone declared the meal delicious; and the festivities proceeded with a block dance at the field. Fireworks were displayed at 10 p.m.

On Sunday, the 8th, more momentous happenings. At 6:30 p.m. the Youth Fellowship, under the direction of Sue Choquette, organized a "box supper" in the Community Center; parishioners and friends appeared in colonial costume; and the Valley Club furnished the dessert. Catching the eye were two "patriotic" cakes, baked by Dawn Cernik. Delicious. At 7:30 one hundred and forty people assembed to hear the Rev. Vesta Thompson's Colonial Service. This was a colorful affair, with everyone in gala dress. There was a tithing man, an old-fashioned constable, mischievous urchins, and even Indians arriving at the service on horseback. The Rev. Thompson broke with tradition only in that the service was not a two-hour one, customary in colonial times! Truly, was not Tyringham's Bicentennial Celebration one to cherish and remember?

All Around the Town:--Kevin Leach, son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Leach of Main Road, has been named to the dean's list at Franklin (Indiana) College, where he is majoring in political science. Congratulations, Kevin!

Don Davis tells us that Tyringham Galleries had a very active summer. Despite many days of bad weather, they had the largest attendance ever. Next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Galleries, and Don says they plan a big celebration on that occasion.

A talk with Kathleen Curtin brought out the fact that the General Store had a fine summer. Business was brisk, especially among the hikers, who especially appreciated her friendliness and solicitude, for she still gets cards from some of them. Kathleen says her current project is to extend her line of winter goods--heavy shirts, socks, gloves, etc. All good wishes for your continued success, Kathleen! (P.S. Another member of the family, Denise, made the handsome Bicentennial banner, which fluttered over the Main Road.)

Due to "infanticipating," Alice Slater recently resigned her position as Tyringham's postmaster. In her place has been appointed young and equally personable Lisbeth Fullemann. Lisbeth grew up in Vernon, Ohio, and attended Sarah Lawrence College and the New York University School of Engineering. She also designed clothing in New York City on a freelance basis, and has been a resident of Tyringham for five years. Good luck, Lisbeth!

We hereby award the merry-go-round's gold ring to the town's "younger set"--Curtin, Fennelly, Darey & Co. In the space of a very short time they, with many willing helpers, produced two delicious church suppers and one toothsome pancake breakfast, all to increase the income of the church. Congratulations, and keep up the good work!

In this particular case, "The Grasshopper" is not a jumping insect, but "a shop for the home." Run by Maria Cole Devore of our town, and Jancy Kapteyn of Stockbridge, the shop is located in Morgan Alley, on the second floor of the Morgan House. A "sneak peek" on November 15th (combined with delicious eatables and drinkables) disclosed items ranging from modestly priced ones to rare and exquisite antiques. Good luck to both ladies in their new venture!

"Cap's" Corner:-"Due to recurring but temporary disability, I (we) have not been able to get back to dear old Tyringham very often, and we miss you all so very much. You cannot know how much being honored at your Bicentennial meant to us! We came near not making it but we did get there and were honored by being given parts in that great day's celebration, though we were forced to miss some of the program.

"But just being 'wanted' on the program meant more than you can ever realize! Thank you for still considering Mrs. C. and your old Minister as still Tyringhamites. It saddens us to read of the loss now and then of dear old friends and we feel very badly when we are unable to attend the funeral services for these loved ones.

"If any of you know where I can rent a pair of legs, do tell me. I have an exicycle which I use daily and it is helping quite a bit, and Ruth keeps me company riding on the handlebars!

"God bless you all, each and every one of you--ALWAYS. Much love from The Couches.
(Judy Reber)

OUT-OF-TOWN: Jennifer Bishop is photo editor of the Johns Hopkins newspaper.... Maryellen Buckley received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology, and is now serving her interneship at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland, California.... Bernice Crook, our former organist, was married on July 31st by "Cap" Couch to George P. Snyder of S. Egremont. They will live 6 months of the year in Florida, and 6 months on Jug End Road. Our congratulations and best wishes.... The Elmer Dodges write, "Community spirit is what we remember when we think of our friends in Tyringham...." Bill and Connie Dyer are as busy as ever in Barrington, R. I. Bill manages a self-service Boy Scout trading post, and repairs 5 to 6 clocks a week; Connie does handicraft for the church fairs. Jim and Beverly will soon be stationed in Newport, Fla. (Navy), and Arthur and Agnes have a new home in Cheshire.... John and Ann Emerson are both teaching at Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia. Andi is taking her Junior Year in Paris; Alex continues at Wachuset Community College.

Helena (Gilder) and Ted Miller have 2 new grandchildren. Their son, Rodman G. Miller, received his Ph.D. in Neurobiology at the U. of Cal. (San Diego); he now teaches at Duke.... Catha Rambusch has offices in the National Arts Club, where the Architectural Records Project moves forward. Kristin was elected vice-pres. of the student body at Sacred Heart Academy in N.Y.C.... Dr. Laurence Donald Bridgham, oldest son of the Donald Bridghams of North Egremont, died on June 3rd in Owings Mills, Md. Our sympathy goes to his parents.... Ward McCarthy is in the Healthcare Nursing Home, Gt. Barrington, and his son reports that he seems comfortable there (at the age of 88).

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB: The Club was busy during the summer with its Annual Fair, held on August 4th, in the Town Hall. The receipts were $1770.96 to which our treasure added $5.04 to make a bicentennial total of $1776! As their further bicentennial effort the Club sponsored the sale of 500 mugs with a special design made by Penelope Littell. $550 has been paid to the Union Church from the profits; 300 more mugs and 150 plates are now available.

The Club appointed a committee, later enlarged by other writers, who produced a historical pamphlet, "Tyringham: A Bicentennial Review." This has sold well and

We are once again coming upon that time of year that is set aside to commemorate the birth of Jesus. A time when we should quietly reflect upon this event that took place almost two thousand years ago, and its significance to us today. This event that was the single most prominent happening in the history of mankind.

May we rejoice over the face of Jesus' birth and be able to say as the angels said to the shepherds.... "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased"....

May the peace that can only come from God be with you throughout the Holiday Season and help you to have a joyful, safe Holiday. God bless you.

Richard B. DuBois

Mr. & Mrs. Stetson Adams & Family
Dr. Gulielma F. Alsop
Walt, Rosa, Walt Jr., & Heidi Alward
Sheila & Kerstan Anderson
Roy, Christine & D. C. Bievenue
Richard & Georgia Birkett
Mrs. Warner B. Bishop
Blaine, Penelope & Kim Littell
Barbara & Norbert Bogdan
Butch & Theresa Bragdon
Lillian & Don Bridgham
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Brighenti
Mrs. Jean Brown & Family
Erma & Jack Bucher
Helen Butler & Jessie Pierce
Mrs. Martin L. Butler (Gussie)
In Memory of Martin L. Butler

Carolyn Canon
Mrs. Dorothy Canon
Mr. & Mrs. John N. Canon & Jennifer
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Canon, Brian & Scott
Sue, Mike & Amy Carlotta
Carolyn Carlson
In Memory of Henning Carlson
Henning, Joyce, Michael & Kimberley Carlson
The Cerniks
Don & Jean Cernik
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cernik & Jessica
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Choquette
Bob & Sue Choquette
Marty, Tom & Tracy Clark
In Memory of Joan E. Clark
Wilbur, Bob, Pat, "Yogi", Robin & Kristie Clark
Duffy & Irma Clark Kerry & Hebbie
Terry, Chuck, David & Jon Clark
Thomas Coley
Florence & John Consolati Ann, Chris, Bonnie, Jay & Steve
Bill & Caren Cosel
Rev. & Mrs. Franklin L. Couch
Player & Bobby Crosby
Ag Curtin
Mary Curtin
Eugene, Nancy & Kevin Curtin
Kathy, Jimmy, Denise, Kate & Jimjim Curtin
John & Davena Curtin
David & Lisa Curtin
Johnny, Missy, Michael & Mark Curtin
Neil, Helen, Gerald, Molly & Mary Curtin
Peter, Deanna, Peter, Jamie & Mattie Curtin
Terry, Marilyn, Terry, Kelly, Beth & Stephen Curtin
Tommy & Maggie Curtin
Francis, Holly & Jennifer Darey
Don & Ann Davis & Family
Debbie & Jim Dougherty
Gary, Maria Cole Devore & Kelly, Timolin & Casey Cole
Harry & Jane Dickson & Dukakis
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Dodge
Bernice Downs
In Memory of Everell Downs
Mrs. John K. Donald & Alison Donald
John & Jean Donald
Jerry, Donna, Jerry, Jr., Jeannie, Christine & Patty Drake
Arthur M. DuBois
Dr. & Mrs. John Jay DuBois & Family
Doug & Janet Eddy
Varney, Clinton, Susannah, Alex and Rory Elliott
John & Ann Emerson, Andi, Alex, Parker & Eleanor
Mr. & Mrs. G. James Fawcett, John, Donald, Annette & James
Bill & Marilyn, Parker & Catherine Elma Fennelly
Everett, Mary Ann, Everett, Jr., Amy & Kathleen Fennelly
Tom Fennelly
Dawn & Michael Fredette
Lizbeth Fullemenn
Mrs. LeRoy Fisher

Allan, Mary, David & Nancy Garner
Marian Gelsleichter
Rod, Mellie, David & Josh Gilder
Rosamond Gilder
Mrs. Arthur Gilmore
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Goldmuntz & Family
Virginia Gorman
The Hales of Sunset Farm
Donald & Mary Hale
George, Jean & David Hale
Stephen & Suzanne Hale
Sandy & Arnold Hayne; Cathy & Susie
Mr. Roy Heath
In Memory of Candace Heath
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Hoag
John & Lucy Holloway
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Jones & Family
Allan, Martha (Birkett) & Jason
Fred & Phyllis Judd
Manfred & Janice Kerk, & June Stedman
Mary D. & Wil Kierstead, Plum & Nicky
Grace Knickerbocker
The Kraszeski Family
Douglas, Marion & Kevin Leach
John B. Leventhal & Family
Mrs. William Leipzig
Bruce Logan
In Memory of Roger & Rugh Logan
Lucia & Eugene Lehner; Andreas, Mary, Adam & Suen
Mrs. Robert Littell & Phillip
Walter, Penny Littell & Family
Susan (McIntosh) & Bob Lloyd, Ben, Seth, & Tom
Beatrice, Charles & Russell Loring
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Loring
Benjamin, Sr., Roberta, Benjamin, Jr., & Robin Loring
Olive Loring
In Memory of Harry Loring
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Loring & Family
Jim, Nellie, Robert, Karen, James, Evelyn & Jennifer Loring
Joe, Evie, Joe-Joe, & Rodney Loring
Tunk, Dede, Rhonda, Elaine, Chuck & Tony Loring
Mrs. Margaret Luchars, Barry, Alec, Charles & James
Orlin & Corinne Lunt
Bill, Barbie, Bill Jr., Melissa & Jessie Lunt
Mike, Sherry, Steve, Pam, & Laura Laccera
Mr. & Mrs. Charles McCarthy
Mary Lou & Merritt McBrian
Jay, Darlene, Stephen & Melissa McBrian
Rustin & Millicent McIntosh, Jim, Carey, Ken & Dick
Katharine & John McLennan; Holly & Jeff Wheelwright;
Angelica & Philippe Syp & Miranda; Susan & Robert Uchitel
& Rachel; Judith & Scotty McLennan; Moo & Jennifer
Ward McCarthy
Mr. & Mrs. Ward A. McCarthy
Red & Helena Miller; & Family
Chris & Anne Moffett, Jonathan, Sam & Sarah
The Moskin Family

Marie S. Moore
Grace Morin
In Memory of Eloise Myers
Myrtle the Turtle
Lois Olds
Olga Olin
Francesca Palmer
Gilder Palmer & Family
The Pappenheimes--Hylie, John, Glenn, Will, Rozzy & Richard
Edward N. Perkins, Sr. & Sister Catherine Louise (Maria Louisa Perkins)
Mary Eleanor Montgomery, (Polly Perkins), Kate Montgomery, Mary T. Howard, Eleanor Montgomery, Edward C. Perkins, Louise D. Jr., James H., David C. Perkins Edward N. & Louie Prentice
Mrs. P. W. Purcell
Mr. & Mrs. Bruno Quinson & Family
Viggo, Catha, Kristin, Martin, Edwin, Lucia Rambusch
Fred, Tottie, Martha & Jimmy Read
Judy & Peggy Reber
In Memory of General Miles Reber (Died, Wed. Nov. 24 as we went to press)
Margaret & Susan Rector
Mr. & Mrs. Edward S. Reynolds
Martha & Guy Robb
William Roerick
Mrs. John S. Rudd
Dr. & Mrs. J. A. Salzmann
Ronnie, Joan, Chris & Elizabeth Santonastasi
Eugene, Ina, Eric Schnell, Vicki & Nancy
Charles & Liz Slater & Family
Chuck, Alice, April & Ryan Slater
Grace Slater
Mary & Gene Smith
Bernice (Crook) Snyder
Ski America Enterprise - Joseph B. Hollister et al
Mrs. Girard L. Spencer
M. W. Stedman Employees
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stracuzzi
Gerald & Ruth Swart, Reed & Sally
Alice S. Thain
Marguerite tiffany
Blanche & Bill Thober
Rev. Vesta Thompson & Frank Balsor
Joy & Asher Treat
Brian, Sue, Heather & Stephanie Treat
Betty, Eddie, Jane, Linda, Kim & Diane Twing
Helen & Eddie Twing
Gerry, Toni & Nancy Twing
Brian & Sidney Urquhart
Gordon, Kate, Brenda, Glenn & Barbara Vanorman
Mrs. Emily Welch
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Whalen
Bert, Karen, Keith, Timmy & Chad Williams
Evelyn Winters
In Memory of Michael Winters
Lillian, Michael, James, Patrick, Troy & Melissa Winters
In Memory of Kenneth Winters

Committee and Photographers

Frank Thober as Tithing Man in Church

Committee and Governor Dukakis

Bake Pit

Grease Pole

These photographs were taken by Bill Cosel and Barclay Hudson, who intend to present all their pictures of the Tyringham Bicentennial Celebration to the Tyringham Bicentennial Committee. Eventually the albums will become part of the permanent collection of the library. Next summer Bill and Barclay hope to design and produce a picture booklet of the events, people, and other aspects of the Celebration.

has nearly made expenses. A Thanksgiving sale, specializing in pies, is being held as this goes to press on November 20th.

(Millicent McIntosh)

YOUTH NEWS: Since the release of the last issue of the TOPICS, the young people have been harder at work than ever. The bulk of the summer's activities revolved around Tyringham's Bicentennial week. The first Sunday of the activities included a horse show at which many of our young folk participated, proving their excellent horsemanship. Bob Clark took to the grandstand as announcer for the ceremonies. That evening the Union Church Youth Fellowship presented a talk show, complete with T.V. cameras, microphones, and producers. The show presented various views of church attendance, and finally, a Christian defense of the real meaning of it all. Performers included Bob Clark, Barb Van Orman, Sue Choquette, Margie Slater, and Sam Slater.

The following Saturday, the Youth Fellowship presented a float featuring Barbara Van Orman as the "Statue of Liberty," in Tyringham's Bicentennial Parade. Though the rain poured down, it could not dampen the spirit of the message of our freedom in Christ, "For freedom, Christ has set us free." (Gal. 5:1) The final Sunday of the Bicentennial week all took part in a very special Bicentennial church service prepared and delivered by the Rev. Vesta Thompson. A crowd of over 100 worshippers attended this marvelous service. The Fellowship sponsored a box lunch with cake and punch for all preceding the service. Our special thanks go to Dawn Cernik Fredette for making two such beautiful cakes. (By the way, Dawn, a former Fellowship member, is now happily married and living with her husband in San Angelo, Texas.)

The Youth Fellowship is now meeting weekly Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. All young people Jr. High and up are enthusiastically invited to join. We have some exciting new things happening, one of which is a monthly trip to Broyle's Roller Skating Arena the fourth Monday of each month; everyone had a super fantastic time last month. All the fun outweighed the bruises and black-and-blues by far. This event is sponsored by the Arena for Christian Youth groups from all around the area. Time is taken out each night for a short Christian program presented by one of the groups in attendance. This event begins at 7 p.m. and lasts until 10. The cost is $1.50, including skates. So everyone is invited to join the fun.

Choir rehearsal is held each Thursday evening at 7 p.m. Following rehearsal, everyone is invited to attend our weekly prayer meeting. This is something about which the young people are really excited, for many prayers have already been fulfilled. If anyone has any special requests, please make them known to any of the Y.F. members or to Dick Dubois.

(Sue Choquette)

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Union Church in Tyringham, Massachusetts, in the interests of the church and community

SPRING AND SUMMER 1977

REPORTERS: Judy Reber -- Sue Choquette -- Millicent McIntosh

Dear Folks:-

Are we really moving into a new Ice Age? Some scientists seem to think so; others are more doubtful. However, our recent weather in the Berkshires would incline most of us to the former viewpoint. Will any of us soon forget the "Blizzard of '77?" This happened during the third week in March, and showed us how dependent we are upon electricity. After tidying up the results of this ruinous storm, we thought we could surely expect Spring. Instead, we got two days of Summer, when the temperature soared into the 80's. This touch of summer left us and we settled into Spring. Then, without warning, the heavy, wet snow of May ninth. Again, devastation was everywhere as branches broke under the weight of the snow and flowers were flattened to the earth. The lilac bushes were especially vulnerable this time around. One last weather note, and then on to other things. In mid-March we experienced a quite severe flood in Berkshire County, with the rising waters lapping around some homes and buildings. But now we can put all this behind us and hope for a pleasant Spring and Summer.

And now a word about our ex-Minister, the Rev. Vesta L. Thompson: Alas, Mrs. Thompson has suffered with one chest ailment after another for a number of months. However, her health has now improved, which is indeed very good news. Also, she now has a permanent full-time position as head of a large Sunday School involving 500 children. Good luck in your new venture, Vesta!

Cradle Corner:--On September 7, 1976, to Gary and Sharon (Russell) Davis, a son, Ryan. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. William Russell of Pittsfield, and the paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Donald Davis of Tyringham.

A daughter, Laura Lacerra, to Sherry (Lunt) and Michael Lacerra, on October 11, 1976. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Orlin Lunt of Tyringham, and the paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Lacerra of Monterey.

On March 10, 1977, to Holly (McLennan) and Jeff Wheelwright, a daughter, Emma. The maternal grandparents are Honora Gifford of Williamstown and John McLennan of Tyringham. The paternal grandparents are Dr. and Mrs. H. J. Wheelwright, formerly of Lenox, now of Camden, Maine.

On March 29, 1977, to Angelica (McLennan) and Philippe Syp, a son, Mark Philippe. He is a second March grandchild for Honora Gifford and John McLennan. The paternal grandparents live in Lyons, France.

To Andre and Patricia (Fielding) Jaouen, of Webster Road, a daughter, Emma-Kate, on May 4, 1977. The maternal grandfather is Mr. Thomas P. Fielding Jr. of Lenox, and the paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Andre Jaouen Sr. of Lee.

Deaths:--Mrs. William G. Roehrich, mother of Actor Bill Roehrich of Lost Farm, died October 29, 1976, at the age of 96. She often visited her son here in Tyringham, and professed great love for the valley. Our sympathies to Bill, and to his sister, Mrs. P. W. Purcell of Southbury, Conn.

Maj. Gen. Miles Reber (U.S.A., Retired) died on November 24 1976. After a distinguished Army career, culminating in his assignment as Commanding General of the Western Area Command in Germany, he retired, and in 1965 moved with his wife and daughter to Tyringham. Here he was active in local affairs, especially the Boy Scouts, becoming president of the Berkshire Council and later of the Great Trails Council. At his memorial service in the Union Church, the ushers were Boy Scouts; and representatives were present from the Lee Rotary Club and the Lenox Library, both of which he had served long and faithfully. (M.C.McI.)

Another "old-timer" is missing from the scene. Wilbur S. Clark Sr. died on March 14, 1977. Mr. Clark was born in Tyringham and lived here his whole life. He owned and operated a dairy farm, and in his time held the offices of animal inspector, meat inspector, and forest fire warden. He was a veteran of World War I, and had received the Army's Purple Heart Award. We tender our condolences to his family.

Herbert H. Heath Sr. died on April 18, 1977. He was a former Tyringham resident, but lived in Lee at the time of his death. We send our deepest sympathy to his family.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--Miss Cornelia (Nini) Brooke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John L. B. Brooke of Lenox, was married on October 23, 1976 to Mr. George Gilder of Tyringham, son of Mrs. Gilder Palmer and the late Richard Watson Gilder II. The Rev. Robert S. S. Whitman, Rector of Trinity Church in Lenox, performed the marriage ceremony. (This announcement should have been in the last issue of TOPICS. Your contrite reporter apologizes.)

All-Around-the-Town:--The Tyringham Fire Department held open house at the fire station on May first, when residents could inspect the new fire truck and glimpse the room which was added in the past year. Registered Nurse Barbara Adams officiated at the free blood-pressure clinic, of which everyone attending took advantage.

Paul Adams, son of Stetson and Barbara Adams, will graduate May twentieth from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture, University of Massachusetts, where he took a two-year course in Park Management.

Dick Loring and his attractive wife Dorothy have left Tyringham for the mid-West. They now live in Strasburg, Colo., where Dick is working for his brother-in-law. Dick was our cemetery sexton for nine years, and road superintendent for seven years. In this latter capacity he spent many long cold hours plowing snowy roads during fierce winter storms. I'm sure all of us appreciate the many stretches of time which Dick spent in keeping the roads safe for us to travel. To Dick and Dot--the best of luck in your new home and your new endeavors!

Tony Twing, formerly our Assistant Postmaster, has moved with her husband Gerald to 206 Prospect Street, Lee. We all miss Tony's cheerful efficient service, but are happy to have Alice Slater return to the job.

Benjamin Ginzberg of the Berkshire Eagle wrote an interesting article on April eleventh with respect to syrup-making in the valley, as represented by the Hale and Curtin families. The description of the "sapping operation" from tree to table was a fascinating one. By the time one gallon of this delicious pancake-sweetener is ready for bottling, 40 gallons of sap will have been used. But, oh, the difference between this and "store-bought'n!"

Barbara Adams, a member of the Valley Club, tells us that the club has recently bought several small chairs for the Sunday School. Also, as they did last year, they will hold a Flea Market on July second (rain date, July ninth). Space for rental will be available to interested persons. As is their annual custom, the club will also plant flowers around the Memorial Rock located between the Library and the Town Hall.

Peter and Deanna Curtin are adding a handsome two-car garage, with full basement underneath, to their home. An added word about Deanna and Peter: they are now qualified to instruct in the art of cardiac pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). So far they have held two classes in CPR, which were attended by the Valley Club and the firemen, for a total of 27 townspeople. Peter and Deanna have indicated their willingness to hold more classes if anyone is interested.

On January 12, 1977, the Union Church in Tyringham held its annual meeting at which the following officers were elected: Moderator, Charles Slater; Clerk, Dianne Fennelly; Treasurer, Elizabeth Slater; Deacon, vacant at the time, but now filled by Bob Choquette; Deaconess, Georgia Birkett; Member-at-Large, Fred Judd; Auditor, Rustin McIntosh; Trustee, Arnold Hale; Finance Committee, Millicent McIntosh and Fred Judd; Nominating Committee, Sue Choquette; Sunday School Superintendent, Sue Choquette; and Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, Helen Curtin.

On May sixteenth the townspeople went to the polls to elect their town officers, with the following results: Moderator, Charles E. Slater; Selectman, Peter L. Curtin; Cemetery Trustee, Mary C. Hale; School Committee, Nancy E. Garner; Park Commissioner, Donald B. Hale; Library Trustee, Irma Clark; Assessor, Peter L. Curtin. The offices of Cemetery Commissioner and Auditor are vacant.

Alice Hale, of Sunset Farms, for the second year has been elected President of the Berkshire County Clerks' Association. Nice going, Alice.

The following words come to us from our minister, Mr. Richard Dubois: "Here it is, springtime in full swing. This is the time of year that everyone has been waiting for and was afraid would not come this year. It doesn't seem possible that we have been at the church for over seven months, but that is correct. Many exciting things have been and are still happening at Union Church. We are in the process of compiling a list of events and ministries that we feel would make the church more sensitive to individual needs and to community needs.

"Each spring, we see everything in nature 'renewing' itself. Everything is transformed from the stark, naked, coldness of winter to the vibrant, growing, warmness of spring. The warmer weather, the buds on the trees, the once-again green grass, the flowers, the returning birds, combine to give one a sense of a newness of life. This newness of life is an analogy of what each individual may experience in their own life through God's grace.

"God's word says that '...if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature, the old things have passed away; behold the new things have come' (1 Cor.5:17). Also that one will be '...renewed in the spirit of your mind' (Eph.4:23). Every spring we get a living picture of God's love for man, one which we can all experience through faith in Christ. I would like to extend an invitation to all to come and participate and to be a part of this. If anyone has any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact the pastor."

"Cap's" Corner:--You old friends in Tyringham have no idea how thoroughly I read the Eagle to see what you good folks are up to, and to keep as close a touch I can with each and all of you, for I regard each and all of you, young and old, as dear friends. I cannot get to Tyringham often, as my legs are not as strong as they once bore me through the mud of a twenty-mile hike in France in that country's famous mud, in 1918. But my heart is with you all, even though I cannot get down there by car. God bless you each and all.

I was interested in your effort to keep out "furriners" in deer season, and having experienced your past "deer seasons," I applaud your efforts.

On a recent cruise, in the dining room, out of a clear sky came the magic words "Myrtle the Turtle." We then knew we were among friends. Sure enough, looking up we saw Petey Perkins and her nice father, Mr. DuBois. They added so much to our trip.

It is hard for me to even type these few words, for my typewriter has forgotten how to spell and I only have one typing finger anyway. Mrs. C. and I both send you our love and greetings.

"Cap" Couch

"Cap" was much too modest to say so, but we would like to add that on March fourth a portrait of Cap was unveiled and now hangs in the Dalton Town Hall. The artist is Olive Volsky of Windsor. In this way Dalton showed its appreciation of the fine, dedicated work Cap did in connection with the town's Bicentennial Celebration last year--to say nothing of his distinguished military service, his pastorate of the Tyringham Union Church, and his long-time interest in the Boy Scouts and Civil Defense. We're proud of you, Cap!

* * * * *

WANTED: Photographer for the TYRINGHAM TOPICS. Male or female. Young or old (or in between). The Hop Brook Community Club will supply a roll of black-and-white film, and pay for its development, to anyone who might be interested in snapping pictures for inclusion in the semi-annual issues of TOPICS. Call Judy Reber at 243-1822.

(J.R.)

OUT-OF-TOWN: Comfort Gilder and her husband, the Rev. Camp Gardinier, are living in Riverside, R. I., where he is Assistant Rector in St. James Church.

Catha Rambusch has been appointed Executive Director of the Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records, Inc. in New York City. According to the New York Times, "The committee is a national clearing house for architectural information." Catha stated that architects and engineers consult the committee when they are planning to restore an old building; and many communities ask for advice as to how they can preserve their architectural records.

Bill Roerick continues his theatrical activities. He was Director at "The Playhouse on the Hill" in Clinton, N. Y., last summer; he took the part of the Professor in Uncle Vanya at the Pittsburgh Public Theatre, and of "Nonno" in The Night of the Iguana in N.Y.C. On TV he was the Minister in Love of Life, and took his old part "Dr. Gavin" on Another World.

(M.C.McI.)

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB: The Club has met regularly at different members' houses. Their Thanksgiving sale yielded $335.25 which when added to other receipts made a total of $2,861.25 for the year 1976. We have spent a good deal of time discussing new ways of raising money, since many of the members cannot sew and would like to make some contribution. We have agreed on the following:

New post card views, which can be used as notes (on sale with Lois Olds, 243-3609): $ .15 each

Bicentennial mugs and plates (a few are still left) on sale at the Village Store or from Millicent McIntosh, 243-2760: $2.50 each

Special sales on Wednesdays in July, at the Gingerbread House, by courtesy of Ann Davis, the above-mentioned articles will be on sale, and refreshments.

A sale of valuable articles on a consignment basis, 25% to the Club and 75% to the donor. This will take place at the Fair on August third. Ann Davis and Mary Curtin will be in charge.

We are considering other possible ways of raising money and of giving service to the community. We have members on the Tyringham History Committee, which is collecting information about all the houses in the village, to be the basis of a new history of our town. The Club also sponsors the TYRINGHAM TOPICS, which now appears twice a year, with Judy Reber as editor-in-chief.

(M.C.McI.)

YOUTH NEWS: Since our last letter, a few changes have come about regarding the organization of our Youth Fellowship. Due to the number and wide age range of young people interested, the group was divided into a junior youth group for grades 4 through 7, and a senior youth group for grades 8 through 12. This more practical and workable situation was made possible through the volunteer help of Mr. Flip Locke of Berkshire Christian College who acted as leader of the senior Y.F. Sue Choquette took charge of the junior group. During the winter months meetings were held weekly on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m.

The most popular activity of the Fellowship has been the monthly "Roll-In" at Broyle's Arena in Pittsfield. Christian youth groups from all the surrounding area meet together the fourth Monday of the month to skate and have lots of fun and fellowship. Midway through the evening a devotional service is held, with the various youth groups leading. The Tyringham Youth Group presented the service for December. All in all, it has been a wonderful time for all kids (young and not so young) who have participated. Many who skated for the first time throughout the winter found the bruises and bumps well worth it! Roll-In dates are announced several weeks in advance.

During the coming summer months, both youth groups will again be meeting

together as Flip will be out of town til the fall semester. All interested in fun, fellowship, and learning are urged to come and participate. Many activities are now in the planning--don't miss out on the fun!

The "Golden Hour" is back! Due to popular demand, the "Golden Hour" will be held this summer for the months of July and August every Friday morning at 10 a.m. This is for all children aged preschool through eighth grade. The "Golden Hour" has proved to be a marvelous time of fun and Bible learning for all children of Tyringham. This year will be no exception--there will be puppet shows, scavenger hunts, games, songs, stories, prizes and surprises every week! Tell your friends and neighbors--a wonderful summer is in store!

(S.S.C.)

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

AUTUMN AND WINTER 1977

REPORTERS:	Judy Reber - Millicent McIntosh -- Dianne Fennelly
DISTRIBUTION:	Irma Clark
CHRISTMAS LIST COLLECTING:	Carolyn Canon -- Irma Clark -- Millicent McIntosh
PHOTOGRAPHER:	Sam Slater

Dear Folks:-

Compared to 1976, this year has seemed calm and quiet. Missing is the large amount of individual and collective hustle and bustle which went into the town's Bicentennial plans. How everyone worked! And we did have a first-rate celebration; something all of us will remember. Now most of us are concerned with how cold the Winter of '77-'78 might possibly be; the ever-soaring price of oil; of clothing; of food; taxes--the whole sorry, worrisome bit. However, before we get too far gone on this dreary subject, the staff of TOPICS wishes everyone of you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our little church is once more in a transitional phase. The Church Committee, on November 1st, accepted the resignation of Richard R. Dubois, who was our pastor for a year. Through the good offices of Mr. Dubois, we were able to secure as Visiting Minister for November and December the Rev. Richard F. O'Hara, Chairman of Religious Education and Director of Christian Service at Berkshire Christian College. We have recently learned that he will continue as visitor until June 1st, and that when his residential duties at the College are ended, he will be willing to accept our appointment as part-time resident pastor, subject to the approval of the Church members.

Births and Dedications:--To Leroy, Jr., and Margaret (McDarby) Palmer of Goose Pond, a son, Leroy George III, on May 24, 1977. The paternal grandmother is Mrs. Dominica Palmer of Lee, and the maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John McDarby of Lee. ... To Roy Richard and Christine (Hale) Bienvenue of Goose Pond, a son, Roy Christian, on June 11, 1977. The maternal grandparents are Don and Mary Hale of Tyringham, and the paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Camille Bienvenue of Lee ... To Don and Jean (Lockenwitz) Cernik, a son, Jeremy James, born July 1, 1977. He was dedicated on August 14th in the Union Church, with our minister, Mr. Dubois, officiating. The maternal grandparents are Robert and Ann Lockenwitz of Lee, the paternal grandparents being Larry and Betty Cernik of our town ... On August 27,

1977, a much-desired daughter (after two sons!) was born to John, Jr., and "Sissie" (Whalen) Curtin. The infant, Lori Anne, with her brother Mark Jonathon (born November 9, 1975) were dedicated by Mr. Dubois in a ceremony performed in Union Church. ... To Gerald and Carol (Hall) Clark, on September 9, 1977, a daughter, Chelsea Denise Hall. The maternal grandmother is Leilia Hall of Marietta, Georgia, and the paternal grandparents are Wilbur, Jr., and Irma Clark of Tyringham.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--TV actress Virginia Gorman ("Another World") was married to Osgood Carruthers on October 15, 1977, in Los Angeles, Calif. Her husband was bureau chief for the New York Times in Cairo and Moscow, covering the Middle East and the Balkans. He also served as official spokesman for the Secretary General, United Nations, 1961-65, subsequent to which he headed the Los Angeles Times Bureau in Bonn and Vienna.

Deaths:--Danny Slater, son of Charles Slater, Sr., and Elizabeth Slater, died at the age of 20 on June 15, 1977. Together with his family, we mourn the loss of this young life. ... Ruth Holloway Herndon, long-time summer resident, died on July 25th, and was buried in the Tyringham cemetery. We offer our sympathy to her family.

Yet another Old Timer has departed from our midst. Ward McCarthy, aged 89, died on September 16th at the Great Barrington Nursing Home. He had operated a dairy farm here for 64 years. We extend to the family our sincere sympathy.

All Around the Town:--Tyringham may well preen its feathers with regard to its annual contribution to the Red Cross. Thanks to the industry of local chairman Davena Curtin (and the generous contributions of local and summer residents), more money was collected than in any previous year--$556. 'Ray for us!

In July, Chris Moffett gave a lecture at "Naumkeag" in Stockbridge. This 26-room, Norman-style summer mansion was built by the famous architect Stanford White in 1886 for Ambassador and Mrs. Joseph Choate. It is now part of the Massachusetts Trustees of Reservations. Chris and his wife Anne have catalogued the entire contents of the house--a real labor of love on their part--taking more than a year to accomplish. Chris's talk was interesting and sprightly, being peppered with many amusing anecdotes. A sense of humor in a lecturer is a good thing.

A town meeting was held in September with regard to the fate of our little "one-room schoolhouse" (actually, two). Selectman Peter Curtin, with facts and figures at his command, pointed out that with the low enrollment figure (five at the beginning of November), the cost per pupil was very high ($3,700). After debating both sides of the question, it was finally voted to continue the school, at least until the end of the school year. After that, the whole matter will probably be thrashed out again. Still on the subject of the school: We wonder how far the fame of our little elementary institution of learning has traveled. A picture of seven children wending their way home, with the school in the background, which appeared in the Berkshire Eagle, was evidently telephotoed far and wide. This reporter received copies of it from Pittsburgh, Pa., Milwaukee, Wis., and Chimney Rock, N. C. Such, then, is fame.

It seems that a number of people in the valley are being honored, one way or another. Robert K. Clark, Chairman of the Tyringham Selectmen, was elected president of the Berkshire County Selectmen's Association at its fall meeting at the Wahconah Country Club. He succeeds Frederick Turner of Egremont. Quite an honor--and he looks a lot younger than outgoing president Turner. Congratulations, Bob!

In recognition of "eminent achievement in education," Millicent McIntosh was presented with the M. Carey Thomas Award for 1977 in a ceremony at Bryn Mawr College on November 4th. One other person, Katharine Hepburn, was similarly honored.

Last spring, Maria Cole of Fernside was made a member of the Board of the Council of Arts and Humanities of Massachusetts, with Governor Dukakis officiating. The Board makes decisions on the annual funding of the different organizations under its jurisdiction.

Maria is also involved in the highly interesting project of restoring "Riverside Farm" (recently owned by the Carlson family), to its original 1762 condition, the year in which it was built. It is one of the oldest houses in Tyringham. Bob Clark, local contractor, is doing the work. So far, five fireplaces have been opened up; a foundation is being placed under the kitchen; and a huge "beehive oven" has been discovered in the cellar. Happily, most of the old wide floor-boards are still in very good condition.

Alice Hale, president of the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association, at a ceremony in Williamstown in early October, received a pin honoring her for twenty years' service. She was the sole recipient. Congratulations, Alice!

A new ordinance for Tyringham, sponsored by the newly-formed Tyringham Landowners' Association, now prohibits hunting on private property within the town limits, except by special permit granted by each individual landowner. It seems this action was deemed necessary because hunters, mostly from out of town, have previously shown great irresponsibility in field and wood. Persons of known integrity will not be barred during the hunting season--just get the owners' permission!

The town now has a new Road Superintendent in Edward Fennelly. He replaces Richard Loring, who moved to Colorado. Edward has Bruce Logan as his assistant, plus two CETA workers. Let's hope their first year of snow-removal isn't too overwhelming!

The Valley Club's Barbara Adams tells us that the tag sale of July 5th, comprised of 14 tables set up in the playground, was quite a financial success, and that they plan to have a similar sale next summer. The club also purchased a picnic table, set up in the field near the skating rink, for the use of skaters and hikers. Myrtle the Turtle says she is at last relieved to knw the Why and Wherefore of this table. It seemed to appear suddenly from Nowhere; but now all is explained. The Valley Club also provided the refreshments for the Children's Hallowe'en party. We all appreciate the club's civic "doings."

Under the able direction of Alice Hale, Mary Garner, and Sara Wilson, the 4-H'ers are setting an excellent record. Sara Wilson (of Lee), a member of the Tyr-Lee Rough Riders, was one of two 4-H girls representing Berkshire County in the New England Horse Show, held at the Eastern States Exposition. Sara received a Second, a Third, and a Seventh Ribbon. She also had the highest score in a statewide written examination, and the second highest in the six New England states area. A superb showing! Heather Treat, age 9, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Treat, won a Red Ribbon in the statewide poster contest. Nice going, Heather.

We regret the departure from the staff of TOPICS of Sue Slater Choquette, who has been our Youth Editor for a long time. Sue's heavy schedule of work and school

prevent her continuing in this office. She will graduate in the spring of '78 from the Berkshire Christian College with a B.A. degree in theology. In June 1977 she graduated from Berkshire Community College with an Associate Science degree in nursing. At Berkshire Christian Sue has been on the Dean's list every semester since she entered. This is a very fine achievement, and we congratulate this extremely talented young lady! Dianne Fennelly, who now heads the Youth Fellowship, will also assume the office of Youth News for TYRINGHAM TOPICS.

Alice Thane has sold her house and moved to Florida. She served for two years as the expert Clerk of the Church Committee, and was active in the Hop Brook Club. We all (including her many young neighbors) will miss her. Her house was bought by Peter and Joyce Eberth of Lee. We welcome them to our community.

John Fawcett, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. James Fawcett, is attending Brooks School in North Andover, Mass. David Hale, son of George and Jean Hale, received his B.A. degree in history from the U. of Mass., and is certified to teach 7th, 8th and 9th grade in this state. However, David preferred the sunny climes of San Francisco; he lives in the downtown area, boasts of 60-degree temperatures, and is substitute teaching.

Dick and Dorothy Loring who left last spring to take up residence in Colorado are back with us again--permanently, we hope. "The Beautiful Berkshires Are Best" is a slogan all of us who love the Valley would subscribe to. Welcome home, Dorothy and Dick!

GOOSE POND-ERS, PLEASE NOTE: If any among you has an item which should be in TOPICS, won't you please call Judy Reber, 243-1822. Thank you.

Cap's Corner:--"It's now that time again for my annual message to my beloved friends in Tyringham. I haven't much to say, but I do want to tell you that I miss you all. I have now reached the point, due to years, when it is hard for me to travel the miles I used to daily for 21 years when I was your pastor. Going only a few miles tires me, and my doctor has forbidden me to drive. I am unable to write in long hand or on the typewriter; hence I cannot correspond with any of you. My good wife is writing this for me for publication in TYRINGHAM TOPICS. My heart will always be with you in Tyringham. My voice is failing, so telephoning is difficult. Having led a very active life, as you know, I never thought I would get old, and it is taking its toll. However, I love you all and hope you will understand. May God bless you all and keep you and help you solve the problem of our little church in acquiring a minister.

"A blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all from Ruth and Frank Couch, and Myrtle the Turtle."

(Judy Reber)

YOUTH NEWS: The Tyringham Youth Fellowship resumed its meetings on September 18th after a summer vacation. We have an average of 8 to 12 youths attending our Sunday evening meetings. Anyone in sixth grade and up is welcome to join.

During the months of September and October, we have enjoyed a scavenger hunt with a "make your own sundae" treat afterward. Our hayride was also very successful with about 16 attending. During the ride we enjoyed a hot dog roast. We thank Sis and John Curtin, Eddie Fennelly and Walter Howard for their help in making the event so successful.

Our Trick or Treat for UNICEF netted the sum of $47.50. We thank all those who contributed to this cause. The events of the haunted house and ghost play and contests were enjoyed by many youngsters. We want to thank the Valley Club for donating

the refreshments and many parents for driving. I personally thank all of the fellowship members for a job well done. I'm proud to say they did this event on their own and put a lot of work and planning into it. They deserve praise.

For the month of November, a bowling trip and pizza party are planned so far. There are also plans to clean certain areas of the Church that are in desperate need of this.

During our weekly meetings, we are studying the Book of Acts. A different member each week opens with a prayer and reads the scripture lesson. All refreshments are brought by different members, most of the baking being done by them.

Our goals for the future are to learn and work together, to help others in need, and to learn to get along among ourselves. To this end we are helped by our faith and belief in God, and by studying His word.

(Dianne Fennelly)

OUT-OF-TOWN: Douglas and Shirley McCarthy are living now in Bellevue, Nebraska. Doug retired from the Air Force, and now is manager of the ladies' and girls' department in a large department store in Omaha.

Mrs. Marie S. Moore has sold her house in South Lee, and is living in Brown Memorial Court in Lee.

Kay and Lisa Palmer have moved with Helena from Rio de Janeiro to New York, where Kay continues with the Chase Bank.

Hylie Palmer Pappenheimer writes that Ros is at York University in England, and Richard has joined a folk group in Oakham, England. Glenn graduated from the U. of London and is working at WGBH (Ch. 11). Will is a senior at Harvard.

Petey Perkins writes that their son James was married on October 1st to "Liz" Robinson in Bethlehem, Pa. Both grandfathers, Edward Perkins Sr. and Arthur DuBois, were there, and all except one of the cousins. Jamie works at the Northampton County Farm Bureau and Liz at a day care center.

Pad and Gail Spence and their son Justin, 2, are spending their third winter in Barclay and Kerstin Hudson's house. Gail is working in the Special Education Department in the Lenox school system, and Pad has left teaching to do consulting on business writing for Lewis Spence and Co.

Alice Truax graduated from the Brearley School in N. Y., and is a freshman at Vassar.

Our former minister, the Rev. Vesta L. Thompson, has moved to Holly Hill, Fla., where she conducts a church service at a nearby mobile home settlement and has a Bible class. Her father at the age of 93 keeps well, and is busy at the moment--paneling their sun porch. She writes that she misses her Tyringham friends and hopes they will write to her. Her address is 807 S. Flamingo Drive.

Mrs. Emily Welch writes, "A very happy holiday and God's blessings to all my friends in Tyringham."

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB: The Club has conducted its usual activities, meeting nearly every month at the home of one of its members. We have made a plan whereby every member takes her turn in supplying dessert, instead of always depending on those who have houses large enough for our meetings. We have also given up coffee, and the hostess supplies tea. Two or three times a year, we have lunch at a nearby restaurant after our meeting.

Our bicentennial projects, the publication of a short history of Tyringham, and the sale of mugs and plates adorned with a bicentennial design, were carried through so successfully that we have only a few histories left, and we ordered more mugs and plates. We will have about 30 mugs left, and a good supply of the plates. These are eight inches across, and ideal for serving snacks. We have decided to sell both mugs and plates for $2.25 each, or 5 for $10. Please send orders to the secretary.

Taking our courage in our hands, we joined with the ladies of the Church Committee to put on a Strawberry Supper. We admire those giants of the past who produced three or four successful meals a year. For three years, we have had no suppers, but we were pleased that we survived this one. We had over 125 people present, made a profit of $273, and everyone had a good time.

The climax of our year is the August Fair. In preparation, Grace Slater single handed produced, with the help of Caroline Canon and Viola Picken, six full size quilts and three crib quilts, all but one of which were sold. The fancy work table yielded $1,159.63. A new project, selling "on consignment," produced over $200. We stressed our "Dollar Lunch," and felt it yielded dividends in conviviality, as well as over $50 in cash. The total realized was $1,756.43. Our Thanksgiving Fair added to this $430.75.

Our most important contribution was the $4,000 plus paid from our accumulated savings for repainting the Church. Our Treasurer has guarded this savings account by spending as little as possible on materials; and all those who have contributed baked goods to our fairs have a share in this gift.

Millicent McIntosh, Secretary

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

Mr. & Mrs. Stetson Adams & family
Dr. Gulielma F. Alsop
Walt, Rosa, Walt Jr., & Heidi Alward
Sheila & Kerstin Anderson
Roy, Christine, "D.C." & R. Christian Bienvenue
Richard & Georgia Birkett
Mrs. Warner B. Bishop
Barbara & Norbert Bogdan; Mr. & Mrs. Deric Washburn
Butch & Theresa Bragdon
Lillian & Don Bridgham
Mrs. Jean Brown & Family
Erma & Jack Bucher & Family
Helen Butler & Jesse Pierce
Mrs. Martin L. Butler (Gussie)
Richard, Stephen, Lynn & Caleb Cabral
Carolyn Canon
Mrs. Dorothy Canon
Mr. & Mrs. John N. Canon & Jennifer
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Canon, Brian & Scott
Sue, Mike & Amy Carlotta
Carolyn Carlson
In memory of Henning Carlson
Henning, Joyce, Michael & Kimberley Carlson
Osgood & Virginia Carruthers
The Cerniks
Don, Jean & Jeremy Cernik
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cernik & Jessica
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Choquette
Bob & Sue Choquette
Marty, Ann, Tom, Tracy & Terry Clark
Bob, Pat, "Yogi," Robin & Kristie Clark
Duffy & Irma Clark, Kerry & Hebbie
Terry, Chuck, David & Jon Clark
Candace Heath Coco
Maria, Kelly, Timolin & Casey Cole
Thomas Coley
Bill & Caren Cosel
Rev. & Mrs. Franklin L. Couch

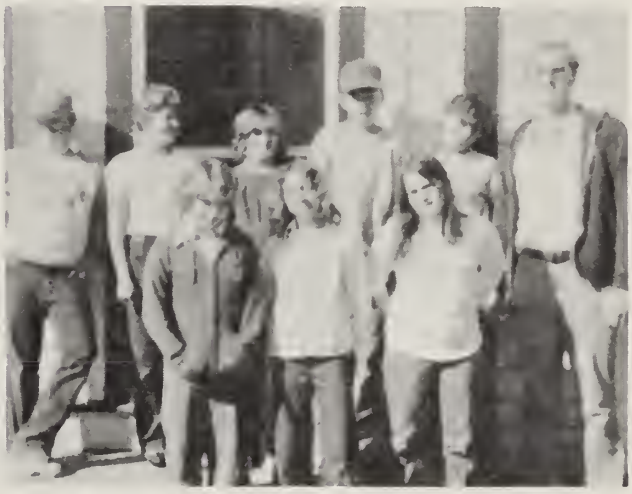
Player & Bobby Crosby
Ag Curtin
Carl & Chris Curtin & Family
Mary Curtin
Eugene, Nancy & Kevin Curtin
Kathy, Jimmy, Denise, Kate & Jim-Jim Curtin
John & Davena Curtin
David & Lisa & Stacey Curtin
Johnny, Sissy, Michael, Mark & Laurie Ann Curtin
Neil, Helen, Gerald, Molly & Mary Curtin
Peter, Deanna, Peter, Jamie & Mattie Curtin
Tommy & Maggie Curtin
Francis, Holly & Jennifer Darey
Don & Ann Davis & Family
Harry & Jane Dickson
Debbie & Jim Dougherty
Bernice Downs
In memory of Everell Downs
Mrs. John K. Donald & Alison
John & Jean Donald
Jerry, Donna, Jerry Jr., Jeannie, Christine & Patty Drake
Arthur M. DuBois
Dr. & Mrs. John Jay DuBois & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Robert DuVernois; Bob, Josiane & Michael
Doug & Janet Eddy
Varney, Clinton, Susannah, Alex & Rosy Elliott
Mr. & Mrs. G. James Fawcett, John, Donald, Annette & James
Bill & Marilyn, Parker & Catherine Elma Fennelly
Eddie, Dianne, Adam & Darrell Fennelly
Everett & Mary Ann; Everett, Amy & Kathleen Fennelly
Tom Fennelly
Mrs. Cecile Ford
Dawn & Michael Fredette
Lizbeth Fullemann
Mrs. Leroy Fisher
Allan, Mary & Nancy Garner
Marian Gelsleichter
George & Nini Gilder
Rod, Mellie, David & Josh Gilder
Mrs. Arthur Gilmore
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Goldmuntz & Family
The Hales of Sunset Farm
Donald & Mary Hale
George & Jean Hale
David Hale
Stephen & Suzanne Hale
Sandy & Arnold Hayne; Cathy & Susie
Mr. Roy Heath
In memory of Candace Heath
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Hoag
John & Lucy Holloway
Maggie Howard
Walter Howard
Allan, Martha (Birkett) & Jason Joyner

Fred & Phyllis Judd
Manfred & Janice Kerk, & June Stedman
Mary D. & Wil Kierstead, Plum & Nicky
Grace Knickerbocker
Betty & George Kramer; Alice, Hawley & Charles
Douglas, Marion & Kevin Leach
Ed & Sue Lester
John B. Leventhal & Family
Mrs. William Leipzig
Bruce Logan
Lucia & Eugene Lehner; Andreas, Mary, Adam & Sven
Penelope, Blaine & Kim Littell
Anita Littell
Phillip Littell
Bob and Susan (McIntosh) Lloyd; Ben, Seth & Tom
Beatrice, Charles & Russell Loring
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Loring
Benjamin Sr., Roberta, Benjamin Jr. & Robin Loring
Olive Loring
In memory of Harry Loring
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Loring & Family
Jim, Nellie, Robert, Karen, James, Evelyn & Jennifer Loring
Joe, Evie, Little Joe & Rodney Loring
Tunk, Dede, Rhonda, Elaine, Chuck & Tony Loring
Mrs. Margaret Luchars, Barry, Alec, Charles & James
Orlin & Corinne Lunt
Lunt Cottage Industries
Bill, Barbie, Bill Jr., Melissa & Jessie Lunt
Mike, Sherry, Steve, Pam & Laura Laccera
Mr. & Mrs. Charles McCarthy
Mary Lou & Merritt McBrian
Rustin & Millicent McIntosh, Jim, Carey, Ken & Dick
John & Katharine McLennan; Holly, Jeff & Emma Wheelwright;
Angelica & Philippe, Miranda & Mark Syp; Susan, Bob &
Rachel Uchitel; Judith McLennan; Moo & Paul Lenart, & Freya;
Jennifer Bishop
Douglas & Shirley McCarthy
Ward A. & Elizabeth McCarthy
Rod & Helena Miller & Family
Chris & Anne Moffett, Jonathan, Sam & Sarah
The Moskin Family
Marie S. Moore
Grace Morin
In memory of Eloise Myers
Myrtle the Turtle
Rev. and Mrs. Richard O'Hara
Lois Olds
Olga Olin
Francesca Palmer & Rosamond Gilder
Kay & Lisa Palmer; Tonio & Helena
Gilder Palmer & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Palmer & Spring
The Pappenheimers: Hylie, John, Glenn, Will, Rozzy & Richard

Mrs. Viola Picken
Mrs. P. W. Purcell
Mr. & Mrs. Bruno Quinson & Family
Viggo, Catha, Kristin, Martin, Edwin, Lucia Rambusch
Fred, Tootie, Martha & Jimmy Read
Judy & Peggy Reber
Margaret & Susan Rector
Mr. & Mrs. Edward S. Reynolds
Martha & Guy Robb
William Roerick
Mrs. John S. Rudd
Dr. & Mrs. J. A. Salzmann
Ronnie, Joan, Chris & Elizabeth Santonastasi
Eugene, Ina, Eric Schnell, Vicki & Nancy
Charles & Liz Slater & Family
Chuck, Alice, April & Ryan Slater
Grace Slater
Mary & Gene Smith
Bernice (Crook) Snyder
Pad & Gail Spence & Justin
Mrs. Girard L. Spencer
M. W. Stedman Employees
Julia & Bill Stanard & Sherrie
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stracuzzi
Gerald & Ruth Swart, Reed & Sally
Alice S. Thain
Marguerite Tiffany
Blanche & Bill Thober
Rev. Vesta Thompson & Frank Balser
Joy & Asher Treat
Brian, Sue, Heather & Stephanie Treat
Eddie, Jane, Linda, Kim & Diane Twing
Helen & Eddie Twing
In memory of Mom & Joan
Gerry, Toni & Nancy Twing
Brian & Sidney Urquhart
Gordon, Kate, Brenda, Glenn & Barbara Van Orman
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Weitzman
Mrs. Emily Welch
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Whalen
Joe & Darlene Wilkinson & Family
Bert, Karen, Keith, Timmy & Chad Williams
Evelyn Winters
In memory of Michael Winters
Lillian, Michael, James, Patrick, Troy & Melissa Winters
In memory of Kenneth Winters

LEFT:

Hop Brook Club Sale in August--GRACE SLATER in the Community Center, surrounded by some of her handsome quilts, which are such superb money-makers for the Club.



RIGHT:

Tyringham School Graduating Class of '77

Back row (l. to r.): Michael Carlson, Adam Fennelly, Denny Curtin, Matthew Curtin, Randy Cernik, and teacher Frederick Simmons.

Front row (l. to r.): Nancy Twing, Marjorie Slater, and Beth Curtin.

LEFT:

BARBARA VAN ORMAN hopefully presides over the Youth Fellowship table at the Hop Brook Club Sale.

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

SPRING AND SUMMER 1978

REPORTERS: Judy Reber, Millicent McIntosh, Susan Choquette
DISTRIBUTION: Millicent McIntosh, Viola Picken, Judy Reber

Dear Folks:-

To those of us who live in the vicinity of the old "rake factory," it was a frightening experience. Around 2 a.m. on February 20 the fire alarm started up its clangor. A short time later there was a tremendous explosion and that was the beginning of the end of our rake factory. Spectacular flames, appearing pure orange in color, shot up 100 feet in the air. The heat was so intense that the paint on the Stetson Adams house, just across the road, was blistered, as was also the paint on the fire house. Our local Volunteer Fire Department was at the scene in minutes; but such was the magnitude of the fire that the assistance of Lee's four pumpers was required. After the blaze was brought under control, and with the departure of the Lee Company in the early morning hours, our men remained at the scene the entire day guarding against a resurgence of the fire. From all of us who live nearby goes infinite gratitude for the expertise displayed in fighting this dangerous fire --which might easily have gotten out of hand. Further praise should also be heaped upon the heads of Carolyn Canon, Kathy Curtin, Dianne Fennelly, Dot Loring, and Julia Stanard, who kept the men provided with coffee, sandwiches, and doughnuts far into the morning. One of the sadder aspects of the matter is that twelve men who worked here lost their jobs. The original rake factory was erected at this site in 1827, so some sort of town "industry" has been located here for 151 years. It would truly seem to be the end of an era.

Our little church is now fortunate in having as its pastor the Rev. Richard F. O'Hara of the Berkshire Christian College. He was appointed by the church members on Sunday, December 11, 1977. Mr. O'Hara comes to us with excellent credentials. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Education from Washington Bible College in Washington, D. C.; a Master of Arts in the Bible from Capitol Seminary, also in Washington; and a Master's degree in Religious Education from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, Massachusetts. He is now a doctoral candidate at the Christian International University in Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. O'Hara and his nice wife Marily and infant son hope to move into the parsonage some time in mid-June. As brand new residents in our lovely valley, let us make them welcome!

Births and Baptisms:--To Richard and Marilyn (Widmer) O'Hara, a son, March 14. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Widmer of Wayne, Pa., and the paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. William B. Miller of Baltimore, Md. The infant, named Joshua Douglas, was baptised by his father, the Rev. Richard O'Hara, in the Union Church in Tyringham on April 16. ... Although not a dweller in our midst, we think it appropriate to mention that Tyringham school teacher, Maureen Salvatore, presented her husband Lawrence with a son, Luke Samuel, on May 25.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--On August 15, 1977, Don Davis Jr., son of Don Sr. and Ann Davis, married Karen Campion, daughter of Mrs. Raymond McDonough of St. Petersburg, Fla. The wedding took place in the Sculpture Gardens of the Tyringham Art Gallery, with Mr. Richard R. Dubois (then minister of the Tyringham Union Church) officiating. ... On April 15 Paul Adams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stetson Adams of the Main Road, and Marie Coughlin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Coughlin, were married in Hudson, N. Y. Father Noonan of St. Mary's Church officiated at the ceremony. ... Another Adams wedding! On May 19 Peter Adams and Rothann Goerlach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Goerlach of Hinsdale, were married at the bride's home, with Justice of the Peace Jean Munn officiating.

Deaths:--Mrs. Jane K. Dickson, 64, a summer resident of the valley, and wife of Harry E. Dickson, died at her home in Brookline after a long illness. Our deepest sympathy to her family.

A frequent summer visitor, Dr. Gulielma Alsop, aunt of Anne Palmer of Main Road, died at White River Junction, Vt., on January 26 at the age of 96. She leaves behind her a long and distinguished record in health services, having established such a department at Barnard College in 1911, where she continued this work for more than 35 years. The Union Church and the town's children will especially miss her, as Dr. Alsop was exceedingly generous in her many gifts to them. We mourn her loss.

After a long illness, Edgar B. Slater, brother of Charles E. Slater of our town, died on March 5, 1978, in Topeka, Kansas. We extend our sincerest sympathy to his family.

Department of Apology (This column has become an almost permanent fixture in TOPICS. Alas.):--We wish to extend sincere apologies to Florida residents Mr. and Mrs. Duvernois, and to the Perkins family in Pennsylvania for not including their names in our Christmas List. We'll try not to do it any more.

All Around the Town:--In the aftermath of hunting restrictions during Deer Week, it would seem that in the main, persons applying for hunting permits on posted land were invariably granted permission. However, many persons who had previously hunted in the Tyringham woods stayed away, daunted by the new edict. According to the records, 25 kills were made in Tyringham; of these, 10 hunters were from outside Berkshire County; 10 were residents of Berkshire County, but not of Tyringham; and 5 Tyringhamites reported kills. It seems to us that the essence of all this can be boiled down to one clear-cut sentence of blinding clarity from the Good Book: "Ask, and it shall be given unto you."

Donna Heath Drake of the Ridge Runners tells us that the 1977-78 snowmobile season was a great success. Permission for using the trails was obtained from various landowners; the snowmobiling rules were strictly adhered to; and at season's end, fence sections were promptly put back into place. A dinner dance was

recently held at the 4-B's Restaurant in Becket, where 85 attended. There were several door prizes and a raffle, and Donna said the financial result was gratifying. With some of this money it is planned that one club member will be chosen to spend a weekend at that ultimate paradise of snowmobilers--Old Forge, N. Y.

At the annual meeting of the Tyringham Union Church, the following officers were elected: Charles Slater Sr., Moderator; Dianne Fennelly, Clerk; Elizabeth Slater, Treasurer; Kenneth Jones, Deacon; Kate Van Orman, Betty Cernik, and Millicent McIntosh, Deaconesses; Judy Reber, Member-at-Large; Rustin McIntosh, Auditor; Carolyn Canon, Trustee; Fred Judd, Finance Committee; Judy Reber, Nominating Committee; and Helen Curtin, Sunday School Superintendent.

On Monday, May 15, the town (that is, 65 per cent of us) went to the polls and elected the following town officers: Charles E. Slater Sr., Moderator; Robert K. Clark, Selectman; Alice M. Hale, Clerk; Marianne Fennelly, Treasurer; Richard Loring, Cemetery Trustee; Alice E. Slater, School Committee; Charles Clark, Park Commission; Sheila Anderson, Library Trustee; Everett S. Fennelly, Board of Assessors; Antonio Febbroriello, W. Merritt McBrian, Donald Hale, Gerald B. Swart and Charles E. Slater Jr., all Planning Board. With particular reference to this new Board, its purpose is to revise the current rather antiquated bylaws with the intent of updating them--allowing spot building, yet at the same time retaining our very real image of a "Hinterland Settlement." One can hardly better the title of the late Mrs. Eloise Myers' history of Tyringham!

John S. McLennan of Ashintully Farm has donated more than 423 acres of his land to the Massachusetts Trustees of Reservations, the area to be known as the McLennan Reservation. It is interesting to note that the property harbors white-tailed deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, eastern coyote, and an occasional bear and bobcat. The reservation will be open to "passive recreation," such as hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and nature studies. It will be closed to motorized vehicles, but open to hunters, as is our Tyringham Cobble. It is nice to have access to such an untouched spot.

Our little white two-room schoolhouse is closing on June 21--a victim of the low birth rate and the high cost per student per year. There seems to be no exact date on record of when the school was built, but it is well over 100 years old. Perhaps at some future time, pupil enrollment warranting it, the school may be reopened. In the meantime, I think all of us have a feeling of sadness over the curtailment of its long career. Like the loss of the rake factory, this too might herald the end of an era.

Century's Worst Blizzard Cripples Commonwealth!--In early February of this year we were buried by a snowstorm of blizzard proportions. We've all read of the Blizzard of '88; now we can point to our own of 1978--perhaps not so extreme as the former, but nevertheless damage in the millions of dollars was reckoned. Eight counties were declared federal disaster areas. Boston was a mess. In the Berkshires it was perhaps not so bad as in the eastern counties, although our Highway Department men were out night and day clearing the roads. They deserve thanks from all of us. Between the Fire and the Blizzard, it's been a memorable winter.

Sue Slater Choquette graduated cum laude from Berkshire Christian College on May 20. She received a Bachelor of Arts, with a major in Theology. This degree is in addition to the one she received in Nursing last year from Berkshire Community College. Smart gal!

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The following graduated from Lee High School at Tanglewood on June 3: Kerry Clark, Denise Curtin, Everett Fennelly, Ricky Loring, and Glenn Van Orman. Glenn was awarded two scholarships: the four-year Lee Lime Company scholarship ($800 per year) and the Lee High Quiz Team scholarship. Because of his ranking third in scholastic achievement, class president Glenn also gave one of the graduation speeches. Congratulations, Glenn!

"Cap's" Corner:--Cap says, "I still miss Tyringham and its people. I'm sorry I'm not able to get down to see you. God bless you all." (P.S. Ruth says Cap has been appointed chaplain of the Dalton Nursing Home. That'll keep you busy, Cap!)

The Valley Club's Barbara Adams tells us that the Club plans another Flea Market this summer. However, no date has so far been set, nor the charge for space rental. Sorry, ladies, you'll have to wait for the details.

Last winter Alice E. Slater resigned from her part-time position with the Tyringham Post Office. Her Saturday morning stint has been taken over by Helen Curtin.

Alice Thain, who recently left Tyringham, is now settled in Florida (4750 Cove Circle, Madeira, Fla. 33708). She says that her apartment is delightful, and the surroundings beautiful. Good luck to you, Alice, from all of us!

Department of Utter Trivia:--This world-shaking item was culled from THE PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN: "The silver-mounted skull of the murdered half-brother of Mary Queen of Scots has served for centuries as a bowl for Brazil nuts on a sideboard in the Scottish castle of the Earls of Moray." Now we know everything.

(Judy Reber)

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB: The Club this winter and spring have faced an era of transition in that they realize they must establish a new identity as a group. The historic days are gone when its members spent long hours sewing, or preparing community suppers, to earn money for the Church.

Now we are a group of 18 women busy in various community and professional activities. Most of us have families who live elsewhere, but who visit frequently with our grandchildren. Moreover, most of us cannot sew well enough to produce saleable articles on our own; and no one can make the beautiful quilts which have been our major source of income during the last years.

What to do? How can we find new ways of serving the community? Although we are not all attenders, we believe that our church has major importance for the quality of life in Tyringham. So we have realized that we must be ready to give time to new fund-raising projects. This summer, we shall experiment in July with a regular Saturday "Dollar lunch," hoping to supply sustenance and cheer to neighbors, summer visitors and hikers. We still have our bicentennial plates (7 inches) on sale now at $2.25 or 5 for $10.00. A new order of our beautiful postcards has arrived; they are in charge of Lois Olds. Other interesting events are in the wind, which we hope you will hear about soon. Our Annual Fair will take place as usual on the first Wednesday in August, and we will have a table at the Valley Club Flea Market.

We feel that the Club has real value in the opportunity it gives its members to see each other and to enjoy a pleasant social occasion. Especially during the winter months we appreciate the chance it gives us to get together. We are

delighted to welcome as a new active member Gertrude Austin, who with her husband, the Rev. Charles L. Austin (a retired minister), has settled in the green and white house near the spring on the road to Lee. We hope others will join us.

Millicent McIntosh, Secretary

YOUTH NEWS: After a short period of inactivity, the Youth Fellowship is once again busy, involving themselves in various church and community projects. For the past several months members of the fellowship have been writing to "secret pals," members of the community who have been sick, who are elderly, or those who are seldom able to leave the confines of their homes. A "Secret Pal Luncheon" is being planned for all pals and their secret buddies who are revealing their identity gradually through clues in their letters and ultimately by a visit to their special pen pals. All involved are having quite a time, especially those who haven't quite been able to detect from given clues just who their pal is.

Last month members of the Fellowship collected door to door for the American Cancer Society, and this month staged a bike-a-thon for Cystic Fibrosis. Our thanks to all who contributed so generously to these worthy causes.

Plans are in the making for the ever-popular Golden Hour Summer Sunday School series. As in the past, the Golden Hour will be held each Friday morning throughout the summer months for ages three through sixth grade. Children of all denominations are invited and encouraged to attend. Post cards will be mailed to all Tyringham children in a few weeks with the specific starting day and more details. The Golden Hour this year will be under the direction of Susan Choquette and Barbara Van Orman. Please help us to make this the most successful summer yet by encouraging your children and their friends to come.

The Fellowship extends an invitation to all Tyringham teens to come join us in planning more activities for the summer months ahead. The Fellowship is a Christian Youth organization working for our church and our community to help meet needs in many areas. We are also looking forward to sponsoring a missionary in a foreign country, corresponding with them about their work and the culture they have become a part of. We invite all teens to come join us for summer fun and fellowship. Anyone interested please contact Sue Choquette or Barb Van Orman for meeting times and place.

(Susan Choquette)

Tyringham Topics

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AUTUMN AND WINTER 1978

REPORTERS: Judy Reber, Millicent McIntosh, Susan Choquette

DISTRIBUTION: Lizbeth Fullemann

PHOTOGRAPHER: Dick O'Hara

Dear Folks:-

This reporter seems to have a "mental block" when it comes to producing a really vibrant introductory paragraph in each issue of TOPICS. It is not for lack of trying. We would like our faltering fingers on the ancient typewriter to come up with some brilliant, inspiring observation on the National (or even Village) Scene. But, no. We wish we could intelligently discuss politics, but our sophistication in that arena is close to zero. Suffice it to say, last month's elections finally released us from being a "captive audience" to the constant bombardment of words, extolling this candidate and reviling that. It is quite impossible to understand how people can be either so virtuous or so evil. May the winners remember their campaign promises! But on to more timely and heart-warming matters: To all year-around, summer, and former residents of Tyringham from the staff of TOPICS--A VERY, VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS! (Myrtle the Turtle seconds the motion).

Births and Baptisms:--Born to Cornelia (Brooke) and George F. Gilder, the author, a daughter, Louisa Ludlow, on July 30, 1978. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John L. B. Brooke of Lenox, and the paternal grandparents are Mrs. Gilder Palmer, of Tyringham, and the late Richard Watson Gilder. ... To Jean (Lockenwitz) and Larry Donald Cernik of Lenoxdale, on September 21, 1978, a son, Scott Edward. The maternal grandparents are Robert and Ann Lockenwitz of Lee, and the paternal grandparents are Betty and Larry Cernik of our town. ... To Susan (Slater) and Robert Choquette, a son, Aubrey Jacob, on November 7, 1978. Both sets of grandparents--Charles and Elizabeth Slater, and Dot and Harvey Choquette--plus the proud parents are from Tyringham. ... On November 8, 1978, to Holly (McLennan) and Jeff Wheelwright of New York City, a son, Henry. The maternal grandparents are Honora Gifford of Williamstown and John McLennan of Tyringham. The paternal grandparents are Dr. and Mrs. H. J. Wheelwright of Camden, Maine, formerly of Pittsfield.

Jeremy, son of Jean and Don Cernik of Lenoxdale, was baptized on July 2, 1978, at the Union Church in Tyringham, with the Rev. R. E. O'Hara officiating.

Deaths:--Mrs. Mae Van Deusen, a former resident of Tyringham, died on October 14, 1978, at the age of 78. The last rites took place at the Tyringham Union Church with Rev. O'Hara officiating. We extend sympathy to the family of Mrs. Van Deusen.

All Around the Town:--Peter and Deanna Curtin held two CPR (cardiac pulmonary resuscitation) courses in September--one for the firemen, and a second one, open to the public, which was mainly attended by the Tyringham Ladies' Auxiliary (chiefly wives of our firemen). A total of 32 individuals took the course. Peter and Deanna strongly urge everyone who has not yet enrolled for the course to do so, since the life-saving knowledge gained is extremely valuable.

On June 25th, a lunch was held for our pastor-in-residence, Dick O'Hara, and his wife, Marilyn (to say nothing of offspring Joshua!) in the Community Center. The occasion was very well attended, and it gave all of us an opportunity to welcome into our midst our new minister and his nice family. Let's get to know them better!

During a recent trip to England, John and Katharine McLennan spent several days in Canterbury. While there, a choral work by John, entitled "Tyringham Service," was performed at Evensong in Canterbury Cathedral. The work is now part of the permanent musical repertory of the cathedral, and will be sung there from time to time in future years. ... Judith B. McLennan, who has been a labor and delivery nurse for two years, will shortly receive her master's degree in midwifery at Columbia University. She will undertake her internship at a hospital in Los Angeles.

An area-sponsored "Tyringham Scenic Road Race" took place on June 13, 1978, comprising various categories of runners and distances. There were many entrants, and our village distinguished itself by producing the following winners: Local trophy, George Gilder, Jimmy Curtin, and Mary Curtin (age 7). In the Special Category Trophy Department, we had Lisa Palmer and Mary D. Kierstead. We wanted to add that surely the race belongs to the swift, but Myrtle the Turtle objected!

On Saturday, September 30th, the town enjoyed a get-together in the form of a covered dish supper, under the able supervision of Kate Van Orman and Helen Curtin. The food was plentiful and good, and the old Community Center rang with talk and laughter. All of us hope we might have another at some future time. Kate and Helen, are you listenin'? (P.S.: As the result of a "free-will offering" on this occasion, the Church is richer by $75.00--which is all to the good).

On Saturday, August 19th, the firemen held their Annual Steak Dinner and Block Dance. The dinner, as usual, was excellent and the food plentiful; and everyone enjoyed the block dance afterwards. With further reference to our Volunteer Fire Department, we would like to quote in its entirety the following letter from "Sissy" Whalen Curtin. Sissy is Secretary of the Ladies' Auxiliary, which organization is comprised mostly of the wives of our fire-fighters: "Dear Friends and Neighbors: This letter is to introduce one and all to our newly formed Ladies Auxiliary. We are in hope of being able to help out the Fire Department when any emergency occurs. One thing that we are doing is building up supplies to have at the Firehouse in case of a power outage, a bad snowstorm, and such. We want all of the townspeople to

know this, for in an emergency you are welcome to the use of the facilities. We will have heat, food, and gas for cooking. We are here to help our town. We have 18 members, and if there are any other interested women, please feel free to come to our next meeting. The meeting date is always posted on the bulletin board in the center of town." This is a tremendously civic-minded group of women, and Sissy says you need not be wed to a fireman to become a member! T.L.A. also plans a Christmas program for the town's children, on the order of that which the school presented in years past. When we had a school. P.S.: The Bake Sale which the ladies held in August netted over $100.00 for the auxiliary treasury. Let's all back up these gallant gals!

The Younger Set:--Kevin Leach, son of Douglas and Marion Leach of the Main Road, has graduated from Franklin (Ind.) College and now has a position in a bank in Indianapolis. Good luck and success, Kevin! ... Sojourning in various institutions of learning are the following: Casey and Timolin, twin daughters of Maria Cole of South House, seniors at Northfield-Mount Hermon School, are among nine students who are studying for 10 weeks in France this semester. At a convocation ceremony on September 24th, Timolin was elected to the school's Cum Laude Society. Congratulations to both young ladies! ... Glenn Van Orman is starting his freshman year at Lowell (Mass.) University ... Susannah Elliott has transferred from Simon's Rock Early College for her junior year to Sarah Lawrence in Bronxville, N. Y.; Rosy Elliott is a freshman at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass.; and Alex Elliott is a junior at Buxton School, Williamstown.

"Cap's" Corner:--The Reverend and Mrs. Couch (Cap and Ruth to us) send warmest holiday greetings to all the inhabitants of our little valley. For the information of any newcomers, the Rev. Franklin L. Couch was minister of the Union Church in Tyringham from 1952 to 1973. In like kind, we also send our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Ruth and Cap. And to "M the T" too!

Walter Howard is Volunteer Farm Director for the Harvest of Hope, an organization based in Stockbridge which undertakes the planting and harvesting of corn. After harvest, it is sold, and the money is sent to places abroad where there is desperate hunger. Walter has planted a field in Tyringham for this purpose--partly on his own land and partly on Jean Brown's.

(Judy Reber)

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Christmas Message from our pastor, the Rev. Richard E. O'Hara:

> "For God so loved the world that he gave
> his only begotten son that whosoever
> believeth in him should not perish but
> should have eternal life."

There are two sides to a gift--giving and receiving. Both are required to complete the gift. Nothing is more humiliating than to have one's gift ignored or refused, and nothing is more insulting to a giver than rejection of his gift. He cannot force a gift, he can only offer it.

"God so loved that he gave..." That is the heart of Christianity, the heart

of the Hebrew-Christian tradition, and the heart of the Bible. This one fact distinguishes Christianity from all other religions. God gave, man is intended to receive.

The coming of the Son of God into the world (by way of the virgin birth) was meant to be more than an isolated event of history. It was meant to be a personal encounter for man. Jesus' entrance into history was only the first phase of redemption; the second phase is to accept and receive the gift that He might abide with you forever. May this Christmas be a personal celebration for you. May it be a time of giving...and receiving.

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OUT-OF-TOWN AND SUMMER RESIDENTS: Carin Cosel has a full-time job working as a landscape gardener for the City of Boston.

Mrs. Robert E. DuVernois sends "Warm greetings from the DuVernois family in Stuart, Florida."

Helen Gaisford writes: "John has gone off to Alaska--seeking. He gave up a good job here, but went with my blessing, altho' I miss him badly."

Michael Goldmuntz will marry Marcy Sternberg June 10, 1979, in Cleveland.

Petey Perkins writes that their son James and his wife Liz have moved to Hatfield, Mass., where he is working for Nourse Farms, Inc., a strawberry nursery.

Catha Rambusch reports that Kristin is happy at Beloit College where she is a freshman.

Bernice Crook Snyder writes that they have sold their home in the Berkshires, and bought a new house in Leesburg, Fla. She hopes to visit Tyringham next summer. At the moment she is busy getting ready for Christmas music.

Alice Thain writes enthusiastically about her life in Florida. "Summer was pleasant--cool in the mornings and always a cool breeze off the bay in the evenings, when we often had covered dish suppers at the Beach House. The pelicans have returned and the mullets constantly jump out of the water."

(Millicent McIntosh)

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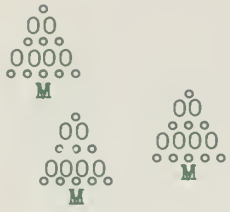
THE HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB: The Club has met regularly at the homes of different members, with others taking turns supplying dessert. Several times a year we go for lunch after the meeting at a nearby restaurant. We have been chiefly occupied with plans to make money without sewing, which only a few of us can do well enough to sell our products. In the meantime, Grace Slater,

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

Stet, Barbara, Sharon and Steve Adams
Rev. and Mrs. Charles Austin
Roy and Chris Bienvenue, D.C. and Little Roy
Donald and Arlene Birkett, and Carol
Richard and Georgia Birkett
Norbert and Barbara Bogdan
The Bragdons, Butch, Teresa, Tricia and Rod
Don and Lillian Bridgham
Marshall and Lena Brighenti
Mrs. Leonard Brown and family
Jakob and Irmgard Bucher and family
Arthur and Nora Buckley
Helen Butler and Jesse Pierce
Gussie Butler
In memory of Martin L. Butler
Mrs. Clifford R. Canon
In memory of Clifford R. Canon
Carolyn G. Canon
Nort, Eleanor and Jen Canon
Mike, Sue and Amy Carlotto
In memory of Thelma R. Carlson
Albert M. Carlson and family
Carolyn Carlson
In memory of Henning M. Carlson
Henning, Joyce, Michael and Kimberly Carlson
Osgood and Virginia Caruthers
The Cerniks
Cecil, Kathy and Jessica Cernik
Don, Jean, Jeremy and Scott Cernik
Bob, Sue and Aubrey Choquette
Chuck, Terry, David and Jon Clark
Duffy, Irma and Kerry Clark
Bob, Pat, Bob, Robin and Kristie Clark
Maria, Kelly, Timolin and Casey Cole
Thomas Coley
Rev. Franklin L. and Ruth Couch
Ag Curtin
Carl, Chris, Christine and Larry Curtin
David Curtin and Stacey Lynn
Mary Curtin and Mrs. Fisher



John and Davena Curtin
Johnny, Sissy, Mikey, Mark and Lori Curtin
Gene, Nancy and Kevin Curtin
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Curtin, Molly, Mary and Jerry
Pete, Deanna, Peter, Jamie and Matty Curtin
Tommy and Maggie Curtin
Don and Ann Davis and family
Harry Ellis Dickson and family
Mrs. John K. Donald, Alison, John and Jean
Bernice K. Downs
In memory of Everell L. Downs
Bill Downes
Marge Downs Szewczak
Debbie, Jim and Kevin Dougherty
Arthur M. DuBois
John and Adrienne DuBois and family
Mrs. Robert E. DuVernois and family
Joyce and Peter Eberth
Doug and Janet Eddy
Varney and Clint Elliott, Susannah, Alex and Rosy
Ann (Niki) and John Emerson, Andi, Alex, Parker and Eleanor
Bill, Marilyn, Parker and Catherine Fennelly
Eddie, Dianne, Adam and Darrell Fennelly
Everett and Mary Ann Fennelly, Everett, Amy and Kathleen
Dawn and Michael Fredette
Lizbeth Fullemann
Helen and John Gaisford
Marian Gelsleichter
George, Nini and Louisa Gilder
Rod, Mellie, David and Joshua Gilder
Rosamond Gilder
Elizabeth Gilmore
In memory of Arthur Gilmore
Ruth, Edgard, David, Susan and Michael Goldmuntz
Rev. H. Camp and Comfort Gordinier, Jeremy and Andrew
The Hales of Sunset Farm
David Hale
Don and Mary Hale
George and Jean Hale
Mr. and Mrs. A. Stephen Hale
Cort and Anna Heath
Rocky and El Hoag

John and Lucy Holloway
Ken, Berta, Kenny and Linda Jones
Allan, Martha B. and Jason Joyner
Fred and Phyllis Judd
Manfred and Janice Kerk, June Stedman
Wil, Mary D., Plum and Nick Kierstead
Grace Knickerbocker
George and Betty Kramer, Alice and Charles Truax
Douglas, Marion and Kevin Leach
Eugene and Lucca Lehner; Andreas, Mary, Adam and Sven Lehner
Mrs. Robert Littell
Blaine and Penelope Littell
Walter and Penny Littell
Philip Littell
Bob and Sue Lloyd
Bruce R. Logan
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Logan
Charles R., Beatrice and Russell Loring
Dick, Dot, Ricky and Eddie Loring
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Loring
Olive Loring
Rick and Rhonda Loring
Tunk, Dede, Elaine, Chuck and Tony Loring
Wendy, Mickey, Michelle and Lisa Love
Margaret, Barrie, Alex, Charles and James Luchars
Merritt, Marylou, Jay, Darlene, Stephen and Melissa McBrian
Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCarthy
Ward and Libby McCarthy
Rustin, Millicent, Jim, Carey, Ken and Dick McIntosh
John and Katharine McLennan, Holly, Jeff and Emma Wheelwright, Angelica, Philippe, Miranda and Mark Syp, Susan, Bob and Rachel Uchitel, Judith McLennan, Moo, Paul and Freya Lenart, Jennifer Bishop
Ted and Helena Miller and family
Anne and Chris Moffett, Jonathan, Sam and Sarah
Ray and Polly Montgomery
Marie Moore
Grace A. Morin
The Moskin family
In memory of Eloise Myers
Rev. Richard E., Marilyn and Joshua O'Hara
Lois Olds
Olga A. Olin
Mrs. Walter W. Palmer
Kay, Lisa, Tonio and Helena Palmer
John, Hylie, Glenn, Will, Ros and Richard Pappenheimer
Edward N. Perkins
Sister Catharine Louise Perkins

Ned, Petey, Neddy, David and Kate Perkins
Jamie and Liz Perkins
Viola Picken
Nat and Louie Prentice
Mr. and Mrs. Phillips Pursell
Viggo, Catha, Kristin, Martin, Edwin and Lucia Rambusch
Tootie, Fred, Martha and Jimmy Read
Judy and Peggy Reber
Margaret and Susan Rector
Martha and Guy Robb
William Roerick
Mrs. John S. Rudd, Mr. and Mrs. G. James Fawcett, John, Donald, Annette and James
Ronnie, Joan, Chris and Elizabeth Santonastasi
Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Salzmann
Ina, Gene, Eric, Nancy and Vicki Schnell
Leonard, Henriette and Andrew Schwartz
Grace Slater
Charles, Liz, Marge and Sam Slater
Chuck, Alice, April and Ryan Slater
Mary and Gene Smith and family
Bernice (Crook) Snyder
Mrs. Girard Spencer
Gerald and Ruth Swart, Reed and Sally
Alice Thain
Bill and Blanche Thober
Rev. Vesta Thompson and Frank Balser
Marguerite Tiffany
Mr. and Mrs. Asher E. Treat
Jerry, Toni and Nancy Twing
Helen and Eddie Twing
Brian, Sidney, Rachel and Charles Urquhart, Thomas Canfield
Gordon, Kate, Brenda, Glenn and Barbara Van Orman
Louis I. and Cecele A. Weitzman
Mrs. Emily Welch
Joe, Marion and Denny Whalen
Darleen, Joe, Paula, Jody, Keith, Michele, Todd and Kevin Wilkinson
Bert, Karen, Keith, Timmy and Chad Williams
Evelyn Winters
In memory of Michael Winters
Lillian, Michael, James, Patrick, Troy and Melissa Winters
In memory of Kenneth Winters

with help from Viola Picken and Carolyn Canon, created a good supply of nylon scrubbers, patchwork potholders, fancy hangers, aprons, etc.

A new project, Saturday Community lunches during July, yielded about $100--and a good deal of pleasant sociability. Viola presided at our table in the Flea Market conducted by the Valley Club, and took in $71.05. At the August fair, we made nearly $1,000. This included the chances sold on Grace's one remaining quilt, which produced $198.25. It was won by a tourist at the Gingerbread House, who was so delighted that she sent a $25 donation.

Our Thanksgiving sale yielded about $310, including $25 made in chances on a huge cheese. Ann Davis conducted the sale, with the sign, "Smile when you say 'cheese'"! It was won by Helen Curtin.

The Club paid $3,350 from its savings to restore the foundations of the Union Church, as well as $600 toward the annual expenses of the Church.

A brain-child of the Club was the Tyringham Bicentennial History, which is now sold out. As a successor to this, a Tyringham Picture Book is being prepared, and is about to go to press. Clinton Elliott is chairman of the committee, and members are Millicent McIntosh, secretary; Agnes Curtin; Alice Hale; Judy Reber; and Gerald Swart. About 150 pictures of old houses and their inhabitants have been collected.

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YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: The Fellowship, a small but ambitious and dedicated group, has busied itself with two major projects throughout the summer. The Golden Hour was once again held each Friday morning for all Tyringham children in grades 3 through 8. An average of 15 children attended each summer Sunday School session. Much planning and many new supplies, plus a redecorated puppet theatre, all contributed to our most successful summer yet in presenting the Gospel to our town's children. Thanks and appreciation are extended to all the mothers who supported the Golden Hour by encouraging their children to attend, and who willingly supplied refreshments for each session. The Golden Hour ended with a picnic on the church grounds, at which good weather, good food, and lots of fun was had by all. Special thanks to teachers Barb Van Orman and Robin Clark for their hard work and dedication.

Our second project was a very special ministry to the elderly of the town and to those who, due to illness, are confined to their homes. Each member of the Fellowship corresponded with several secret pals without revealing their identity, though each letter contained a clue as to who the author was. At the end of the summer, the secret pals were disclosed, and all gathered around a gala feast in the church fellowship hall. A grand time was had by all, and in closing, the Fellowship presented their pals with a short concert (a remarkable feat on such full stomachs!). The Fellowship extends warmest wishes and much love to all our pals, and we pray that God will richly bless you this Christmas Season.

(Susan Choquette)

Irma Clark and Kate Van Orman, our amiable servers of lunch. "Next, please!"

Grace Slater and Lois Olds chat over lunch

High financial transaction between Catha Rambusch and Georgia Birkett at the toys table.

Hiker Karen Olson of Oak Ridge, Tenn., stops for a look and lunch. She heartily approved of everything.

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

SPRING AND SUMMER 1979

EDITOR: Judy Reber

DISTRIBUTION: Lizbeth Fullemann, Millicent McIntosh, Viola Picken, Judy Reber

Dear Folks:-

We are apt to begin each issue of TOPICS with a discussion of Weather Past. However, as far as the ICY winter of 1978-79 is concerned, we will dismiss it with just one word: Horrible. And now on to other things.

Some time this summer we hope to bring out a new book entitled, "Old Tyringham: A Pictorial Record." In this publication will be included such pre-Civil War houses as are still in existence. The Editorial Committee concerned with this book was composed of the following: Ag Curtin, Clinton Elliott, Alice Hale, Millicent McIntosh, Rustin McIntosh, Judy Reber, Gerald Swart, and Bill Thober. There was much rooting about in attics and old albums (especially by Ag and Alice) in order to dig up the appropriate old pictures. (Irma Clark, our librarian, also produced a goodly number from her files.) In all we managed to garner 160 old photographs. Not all of the pictures are of houses; some of them depict residents of past generations, to say nothing of two photos of a former President of the United States! This complicated collection was carefully sorted and arranged by Clinton Elliott to coordinate with the maps drawn by Bill Thober. Giving, as it does, the distinct flavor of a bygone era, this book should prove of interest to everyone connected with Tyringham.

Births and Baptisms:--To Shaun and Holly (Nebinger) Murphy, a son, Eamonn Keeler Murphy, on April 13, 1979. The paternal grandparents are Bob and Rita Murphy of Ridgefield, Conn., and the maternal grandfather is Edward Nebinger, also of Ridgefield.

Aubrey J. Choquette, son of Susan and Bob Choquette, was christened on December 9, 1978.... Edward Scott Cernik, son of Donald and Jean Cernik of Lee, was

christened on February 11, 1979. Both christenings took place in the Tyringham Union Church, with the Rev. Richard E. O'Hara officiating.

Deaths:--Mrs. Elizabeth Loring Hale of Sunset Farm, Main Road, died on April 7, 1979. She was the wife of Arnold Hale, and the mother of Alice, Donald, and George Hale. We extend our sincerest sympathy to her family.

All Around the Town:--The members of the Union Church in Tyringham met on January 10, 1979, and elected the following officers: Charles Slater Sr., Moderator; Helen Curtin, Clerk; Richard Warren, Treasurer; Bill Thober, Deacon; Carolyn Canon and Millicent McIntosh, Deaconesses; Alice Hale, Member-at-Large; Rustin McIntosh, Auditor; Ken Jones, Trustee; Bill Thober, Finance Committee; Kate Van Orman, Nominating Committee; Helen Curtin, Sunday School Superintendent.

On May 14, 1979, with a turnout of 79 per cent of the town's registered voters, the following officers were elected: Charles Slater Sr., Moderator; W. Merritt McBrian, Selectman; Edward S. Fennelly, Cemetery Trustee; Richard E. O'Hara and Janice Curtin, School Committee; Peter Eberth, Park Commissioner; Betty Jean Cernik, Tax Collector; Mary C. Garner, Library Trustee; Stetson K. Adams, Assessor; and Antonio Febbroriello, Planning Board. The position of auditor remains vacant. The very recently appointed Finance Committee, consisting of Margaret Curtin, Peter Risatti and Jay McBrian, presented an excellent report on very short notice.

A signal honor has been conferred upon "Charlie" Slater. Charlie, descendant of a farming family which settled here in the 18th century, has been named this year's outstanding alumnus of the University of Massachusetts' veterinary and animal sciences. This happy occasion, when he was awarded a citation for "outstanding achievement in agriculture," was attended by most members of his family and took place at the annual dairy farmers' seminar in Sturbridge. He says he was taken completely by surprise. Congratulations, Charlie!

With a view to preserving that portion of the Appalachian Trail which winds through Berkshire County in the vicinity of Upper Goose Pond, the National Park Service proposes to acquire about 1,000 acres of undeveloped land surrounding Upper Goose in Tyringham and Lee. Robert Proudman, trail supervisor of the Appalachian Mountain Club, stated, "This remarkable piece of land would be of great benefit to the citizens of Berkshire County." It would, indeed. And speaking of the Appalachian Trail.... Last August a young Appalachian hiker, Karen Olson of Tennessee, being out of food, stopped off at the Hop Brook Club summer sale. Here she stocked up on enough "eatables" to last a few days. Karen hiked the entire length of the Trail, from Georgia to Maine, more than 2,000 miles--and for her a six-month trip. On a typical day she made 12 to 15 miles, walked ten hours, slept ten hours, and ate four hours. She came to know the beauties and dangers of this primitive, nomadic life as she could in no other situation. Along the Trail her adventures were many and varied, as were the people she met. Karen later told us that her hike on the Appalachian Trail was the fulfillment of a life-long dream, and a wonderful time of self-discovery. We think it was an odyssey of unquestioned pluck and fortitude. (Incidentally, Karen's picture appeared in the last issue of TOPICS.)

We can be justly proud of our little church in that it contributed $100 toward the repair of the steeple of the First Congregational Church in Lee. This 195-foot steeple is in a bad state of deterioration, and the Lee church must raise half of the $54,000 restoration fund allotted to it by the Historical Commission last fall. Perhaps other local churches will follow our example toward preserving this unique landmark.

Everybody has seen, at one time or another, the large "ex-school bus" parked in town. The legend "Cobble Mountain Band" appears on its side, and is the name of our local band. Walter Palmer, its leader, tells us the band was first organized four and a half years ago. The type of music played is country swing, old-time rock, Irish reels, old-time fiddle music, and Blue Grass. Walter says they are kept busy all the time. As a matter of fact, a record has just been cut called "Cobble Mountain Band," which is coming out in July. The band plays in this vicinity, as well as in outside areas, such as the Lone Star Cafe in Manhattan; in Maine at The Cellar Door; and, with other engagements in Auburn, Maine, and in Connecticut and Massachusetts, they are obviously not idle. In addition to bandleader Palmer, the members are Amasa Miller, Chris Tuttle, Richard Thornburg, Glenn Ferrell, and Peter and Steve Adams. They are scheduled to play for the Tyringham Bier Fest this summer, under the auspices of the Tyringham Fire Company. Everett Fennelly tells us that the event will take place on Saturday, July seventh, at the park; admission will be a cover charge. Should be an interesting occasion. Everett also stated that the Fire Company's Annual Steak Roast and Block Dance will be held on Saturday, August fourth, at the park. Supper will be from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and the dance from 9 p.m. til 1 a.m. Mark your calendars!... The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Tyringham Fire Department has published a cookbook entitled, "Home Town Recipes of Tyringham." The price is $3 a copy, and further information may be obtained from Marion Whalen at 243-3691.

Valley Club President Barbara Adams tells us that the club has purchased a Santa Clause suit for the town--for use, obviously, at the town's annual Children's Christmas Party at the town hall. The town will also be buying certain articles for the town swimming pool, such as floats for the rope.

A number of our young people have graduated from various institutions of learning. Brenda Van Orman, daughter of Gordon and Kate Van Orman, graduated cum laude with a B.A. in music from Mount Holyoke College. She has applied for a teaching position in Colorado Springs, Colo., and is now awaiting word.... Jennifer Bishop, daughter of Katharine McLennan, has graduated from Johns Hopkins University, where she was awarded the Journalism Prize. She has been doing freelance photography in Baltimore for three years for various newspapers, including "The City Paper," which she helped to start and on whose staff she will remain. Jennifer is now busy painting and equipping her own studio, where she will pursue her photographic profession. Maybe she'll be another Margaret Bourke White!

James Curtin, son of Peter and Deanna Curtin, and Edward Loring, son of Dick and Dot Loring, have graduated from Lee High School.... The Cole twins, Timolin and Casey, daughters of Maria Cole and the late singer Nat King Cole, have graduated from Northfield Mount Hermon School--Timolin graduating cum laude. For the first time in their lives the twins will attend separate schools: Casey to Brown University and Timolin to Amherst. We wish the best of luck to all our graduates!

We welcome into our midst Robert and Suzette Alsop. They have moved from Stockbridge to Lois Olds' house on the Main Road. We understand that Robert spent many summers here as a child, and has always been very fond of the valley. He is the brother of Anne Palmer and Adele Howard, and is a lawyer for Stanley Products. Suzette is a painter. And by the way, Lois Olds' new address is: Heritage Hills Condominiums, Westchester County, Somers, N. Y. 10589.

Davena Curtin, for thirty years chairman of the Tyringham Chapter of the Red Cross, stated that our little village has, as usual, gone far beyond its recommended quota of $325. This year Davena and her husband John worked in tandem on the Red

Cross Drive, and so far $480 has been collected, with checks still coming in. Davena says it would be nice if she could get a little volunteer help on the drive next year. Any takers?

"Cap's" Corner:--Cap Couch says to tell all his Tyringham friends that he sends them innumerable good wishes, and that he thinks of them often. Cap, we return the compliment!

As the result of a Spaghetti and Meatball Supper, which took place on June first in the Community Center, the Church is $106 the richer. Many thanks are due Kate Van Orman and Helen Curtin for their organizing work; the small army of helpers; Bill Thober for "collecting at the door;" and all those who so generously donated food, coffee, tea and milk to the event.

Youth Fellowship:--This group has been inactive for a period of time. However, Sue Choquette says she is hopeful that the Golden Hour will again be a part of village summer life. This ever-popular program is a great favorite with the town's "small fry."

Ted Jones, president of Boston radio station WCRB, presented Harry Dickson with the "WCRB Service to Music Award" and a check to establish the Dickson-Dukakis Scholarship for study at the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood. Harry Dickson is a summer resident of Tyringham, assistant director of Boston Pops, and father-in-law of former Governor Dukakis.

Department of Utter Trivia:--From "Live Lines," "Definition of an Elephant: A mouse built to Government specifications." How true, how true.

Judy Reber, Editor

The Hop Brook Community Club had several meetings this winter, for sociability as well as our usual discussions of plans to make money. We have several projects under way. In June we are having a picnic in the McLennans' garden, to which all members may bring two guests. Each of us will supply lunch for herself and guests, and will contribut $2 apiece to the Club funds. In July we will continue the Saturday Dollar lunches, which we felt were successful last year. In August we will have our traditional August Fair and Lunch, and in addition, a chamber music concert, in the Church, with performers from our local communities.

We have been saddened by the illness of Grace Slater. Characteristically, before she went to the hospital, she finished a king sized quilt on which we shall be selling chances for 50¢ a ticket. We hope to better our returns of last year of $198.

Millicent McIntosh, Secretary

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

AUTUMN AND WINTER 1979

REPORTERS: Judy Reber, Millicent McIntosh, Susan Choquette

Inasmuch as this issue of TOPICS is somewhat on the plump side, due to the addition of the Christmas List, this reporter will forego any ponderous utterings, any explanations of the latest UFO sightings, or predict what the price of gold will be in 1984. We do want to stress this point, however, that the new book published by the Tyringham Historical Committee, Old Tyringham--A Pictorial Record (reviewed glowingly by the Berkshire Eagle, no less), is on sale at our post office. For residents (or others) who come to the post office in person, the charge is $3 a copy; if sent through the mails by our Postmaster, or bought outside Tyringham, the price is $4. Either way, a good buy. And now--to all dwellers in Tyringham, and to all former dwellers, and to our summer residents: "A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

Births and Baptisms:--A son, Travis Robert Cabral, on June 10, 1979, to Stephen and Lynn (Bertelli) Cabral. The paternal grandparents are Richard Cabral of Lee and Doris Cabral of Boca Raton, Fla.; the maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bertelli of Lee. To Eugene and Nancy (Smith) Curtin, a son, Eugene Joseph Curtin. The paternal grandmother is Mary Curtin of our town, and the maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith of Lenox.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--On October 6, 1979, Kerry L. Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur S. Clark Jr. of Tyringham, married Heamon J. Williams III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Williams Jr. of South Lee. The Rev. Richard O'Hara officiated at the ceremony performed in the Tyringham Union Church.

Deaths:--Mrs. Helen Butler, as the result of a tragic accident on the Jerusalem Road, died on July 24, 1979. She was the mother of Edward and Jesse Pierce. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

On August 16, 1979, another tragic road accident resulted in the death of David P. Curtin, son of Neil and Helen Curtin of the Main Road. Deepest sympathy to his family.

The Rev. Franklin L. Couch, Dalton's leading citizen, and ex-pastor of the Tyringham Union Church, died on November 7, 1979, at the age of 87. We extend sincerest sympathy to all his family. (See "Cap's Corner.")

All Around the Town:--We are indebted to Bill Roerick for the resilvering of the cross above the pulpit in the sanctuary of our little church. Viggo Rambusch, an official of Rambusch Decorating of New York City, handled the technical details involved. The cross is now "a thing of beauty and a joy forever." Thank you, Bill and Viggo!

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Tyringham Fire Company has recently held an election, resulting in the following officers: President, Cissie Curtin; Vice President, Marion Leach; Treasurer, Marion Whelan; and Secretary, Holly Murphy. The Auxiliary is in charge of the annual Christmas party for the children of the town. This will be held on December 20 at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Santa promises to be there. We have it on the best authority. Cissie again stressed the fact that the firehouse will be open to people in need this coming winter.

In a chat with Joe Whalen, Fire Chief, he informed us that both the Bier Fest and Steak Roast of last summer were huge successes. In this respect he particularly enjoined us to say "thank you" from the Tyringham Fire Company to the townspeople, who so enthusiastically supported the festivities. Joe, further bolstering his daughter Cissie's remarks on the availability of the firehouse this winter, urged all to remember that it would be open and equipped with water, auxiliary power, bottled gas for cooking purposes, and a fireplace for heating. What a grand thing it is to have concerned citizens looking ahead to what undoubtedly will be a hard winter for all of us.

Alice Hale of Sunset Farm is a gal who has garnered many honors over many years of dedicated work in the 4-H Club. Her latest, received in October, is a plaque (only one of three awarded in the state) reading, "Citation for Outstanding Service to 4-H." When added to her farm work, to say nothing of her other outside activities, one can only marvel at her energy. Congratulations, Alice!

On June 29 there occurred a gala event at the Tyringham Art Galleries. Ann and Don Davis hosted a benefit for the players of Shakespeare and Company of Lenox --"Champagne for Shakespeare." Don's gardens were simply beautiful; the eatables were delectable; the company congenial; the "bubbly" bubbled; and a good time was had by all.

Varney Elliott of the George Cannon Road has been elected President of the Challenge for Youth Group, which is headed by Gillie Palmer. This private, nonprofit organization is dedicated to rehabilitating young people (students) who are disturbed, or on drugs, by offering them a supervised (Gillie), healthy outdoors program. Most commendable, and we wish them success in this worthy endeavor.

We deem it of importance that summer residents and townspeople alike be kept up to date on the activities of our Planning Board, whose members are: Tony Febbroriello, Donald Hale (chairman), Merritt McBrian, Charles Slater Jr., and Gerald Swart. To begin with, previous bylaws for the Town of Tyringham were drawn up in 1973 by an appointed committee. Within the last year or two the state law required that the town revise those bylaws. In 1978 the present Planning Board was elected, and it is now in the process of drawing up current bylaws. The Board has worked since 1978 to rewrite the Zoning Protective Bylaws. In early November 1979, the Attorney General of the state notified the Town Clerk that the Zoning Protective Bylaws had been approved by his office. These Zoning Bylaws cover the following: Dwelling specifications, lot frontage, home occupation, mobile homes, uses permitted by right, uses permitted by special permit, agricultural uses, sign regulations, commercial timbering, junk cars, etc. The purpose of these bylaws is to "provide for the Town of Tyringham the protection authorized by the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 40-A, as amended, and promote the health, safety, convenience and welfare of the inhabitants of the town." The Planning Board is presently working on the finalization of the Subdivision Contrl Law. (Thank you, Board member--who shall be nameless--who helped me with this!)

CHRISTMAS 1979

As I write these short paragraphs on November twentieth, I have already seen the "commercial" trappings of Christmas and the annual "rush of meaningless buying" which threatens to engulf us again this year. Talk of "Christmas shopping hours" and "Sunday openings" fills the air, along with the traditional melodies of the ancient carols.

Let us pause this Christmas to reflect not upon oil, clothing, or toy prices, but upon the Babe of Bethlehem who grew up to become the Savior of Calvary. Let us listen--and perhaps we shall again hear the angels sing, "Peace on earth good will toward men--for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

Merry Christmas, a joyous Hannukkah, and a Happy New Year to you all.

--Richard O'Hara, Minister, Union Church

C H R I S T M A S G R E E T I N G S !

Stet, Barbara, Sharon and Steven Adams
Paul and Marie Adams and Peter
Robert C. and Suzette Alsop
Sheila and Kerstin Anderson
Rev. and Mrs. Charles Austin
The Bienvenues, Roy, Chris, D. C. and R. Christian
Richard and Georgia Birkett
Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Bogdan
The Bragdons, Butch, Teresa, Tricia, and Rod
Don and Lillian Bridgham
Marshall and Lena Brighenti
Jean Brown; Sandra and Jonathan Brown and family;
  Robert K. Brown
Jakob and Irmgard Bucher and family
Mrs. Martin L. Butler (Gussie)
In memory of Martin L. Butler
Steven E., Lynn M., Caleb R., and Travis R. Cabral
Mrs. Clifford Canon
In memory of Clifford Canon
Carolyn G. Canon
Nort, Eleanor and Jennifer Canon
Mike, Sue, Amy and Mia Carlotto
Carolyn Carlson
In memory of Henning M. Carlson
Henning, Joyce, Michael and Kimberly Carlson
Virginia D. Caruthers; Susan, Joseph and Conor Moran
Larry, Betty, Jeff and Randy Cernik
Cecil, Kathy and Jessica Cernik
Don, Jeremy and Scott Cernik
Peter and Gail Charpentier
Bob, Sue and Aubrey Choquette

Duffy and Irma Clark
Chuck, Terry, David and Jon Clark
Bob, Pat, Bob, Robin and Kristie Clark
Maria Cole, Kelly, Timolin and Casey
Thomas L. Coley
Carin Cosel
Ruth Couch

John and Davena Curtin
Peter, Deanna, Peter Jr., Jamie and Matty Curtin
Mary Curtin and Mother, Mrs. Fisher
Carl, Chris, Christine and Larry Curtin
Eugene, Nancy, Kevin and Baby Gene Curtin
Neil, Helen, Molly, Mary and Jerry Curtin
Lisa and Stacey Curtin

In memory of David Curtin
Johnny, Sissy, Mikey, Mark and Lori Curtin
Terry, Marilyn, Butch, Kelly, Beth and Stephen Curtin
Tommy and Maggie Curtin
Holly, Putt, and Jennifer Darey
Don and Ann Davis and family
Elmer W. and Eleanor C. Dodge
Alice Donald; John Donald Jr.
Bernice Downs, Marge Szewczak and Fred W. Downs Jr.
Everell Downs
Gerry and Donna Drake; Gerry Jr., Jean, Christine and Patty
Arthur M. Dubois
Dr. John G. Dubois and Adrienne, Anne, Catherine and Peter
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. DuVernois
Bill and Connie Dyer
Joyce and Peter Eberth
Doug and Janet Eddy
Clinton and Varney Elliott; Susannah, Alex and Rosy
John and Ann Emerson; Andi, Alex, Parker and Eleanor
Mr. and Mrs. G. James Fawcett, John, Donald, Annette and James
Bill, Marilyn, Parker and Catherine Fennelly
Eddie, Dianne, Adam and Darrell Fennelly
Everett and Mary Ann Fennelly, Everett, Amy and Kathleen
Tom Fennelly
Dawn and Michael Fredette
Lizbeth Fullemann
Helen Gaisford and John
Allan and Mary Garner, Nancy and David
Marian Gelsleichter
George, Cornelia B. and Louisa L. Gilder
Rodman and Mellie Gilder, David and Joshua
Rosamond Gilder
Elizabeth Gilmore
In memory of Arthur Gilmore
The Hales of Sunset Farm
Don and Mary Hale

George and Jean Hale
David Hale
A. Stephen and Suzanne Hale
Cortland and Anna Heath
Roy Heath
John (Rocky) and Eleanor Hoag
Ken and Berta Jones
Kenneth Jones Jr.
Linda Jones
Allan, Martha and Jason Joyner
Fred and Phyllis Judd
In memory of Eloise Myers
Wil and Mary D. Kierstead, Plum and Nick
Betty and George Kramer, Alice, Hawley and Charles Truax
Lucyan and Lois Kraszeski, Jon, Alan and Nancy Robitaille
Doug, Marion and Kevin Leach
Eugene, Lucca, Adam and Sven Lehner
Mrs. Anita Littell
Penelope, Blaine and Kim Littell
Bruce R. Logan
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Logan
Charles, Beatrice and Russell Loring
Ben, Roberta, Ben Jr. and Kelly Loring
Joe, Evie, Joe Jr. and Rodney Loring
Dot and Dick Loring, Ricky and Eddie; Deby, Charles and Kevin Hunt
Fred and Phyllis Loring
Olive Loring
Tunk, Dede, Elaine, Chuck and Tony Loring
Margaret Luchars and family
Jay, Darlene, Steve and Melissa McBrian
Merritt and Marylou McBrian
Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCarthy
Charles Douglas McCarthy
Rustin and Millicent McIntosh; Jim, Carey, Sue, Ken, Dick
Katharine and John McLennan and all the family
Ted and Helena Miller; Rodman G., Julia T., A. Amasa Jr., and Virginia Ann Miller and their families
Anne and Chris Moffett, Jonathan, Sam and Sarah
Marie S. Moore
Grace A. Morin
The Moskin family
Dick, Marilyn and Joshua O'Hara
Lois C. Olds
Olga A. Olin
Mrs. W. W. Palmer
Kay, Lisa, Tonio and Helena Palmer
John, Hylie, Glenn, Will, Ros and Richard Pappenheimer
Edward N. Perkins, Sister Catherine Louise

Ned and Petey Perkins, Louie, Neddy, Jamie
and Liz, David, Kate
Viola Picken
Jesse Pierce
In memory of Helen Butler
Viggo and Catha Rambusch; Kristin, Martin,
Edwin and Lucia
Tootie, Fred, Martha and Jimmy Read
Judy and Peggy Reber
Margaret and Susan Rector
Edward and Dorothea Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Guy I. Robb
In memory of Everell L. Downs
William Roerick
Mrs. John S. Rudd
Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Salzmann
Ronnie, Joan, Chris and Elizabeth Santonastasi
Ina, Gene, Eric, Nancy and Vicki Schnell
Leonard, Henriette and Andrew Schwartz
Grace Slater
Charles, Liz, Margie and Sam Slater
Chuck, Alice, April and Ryan Slater
Gene and Mary Smith; Grace Knickerbocker
Mrs. Girard Spencer
Jo B. Stott
Gerald and Ruth Swart, Reed and Sally
Bill and Blanche Thober
Rev. Vesta Thompson; Frank E. Balsor
Marguerite Tiffany
Mr. and Mrs. Asher E. Treat
Gerry, Toni and Nancy Twing
Helen and Eddie Twing
In memory of Joan E. Clark
The Van Ormans: Gordon, Kate, Brenda, Glenn
and Barbara
Louis I. and Cecele A. Weitzman
Mrs. Emily B. Welch
Joe, Marion and Denny Whalen
Joe, Darleen, Paula, Jody, Keith, Michele, Todd
and Kevin Wilkinson
Bert, Karen Keith, Timmy and Chad Williams
Keamon and Kerry (Clark) Williams III
Evelyn Winters
In memory of Michael S. Winters
In memory of Kenneth (Red) Winters
Lillian, Michael, Jim, Pat, Troy and Missy Winters

"Cap's" Corner:--It is saddening to realize that this is the last time this particular heading will appear in the pages of TOPICS. The whole idea of TYRINGHAM TOPICS sprouted many years ago from Cap Couch's fertile imagination. In his day, the paper appeared four times a year; unfortunately, it's now run by a clutch of housewives who cannot give that much time to it. In his role as pastor he rambled all over the valley in his little VW, gathering news as he visited the people of Tyringham. With the help of the ubiquitous "Myrtle the Turtle," he got out a sprightly paper on valley doings; news of summer residents; and of our men in the armed services. His cooperation and help with the Church suppers is legendary. There was always someone who managed to forget something, and Cap would roar off to Lee to obtain the missing item. He continued his pastoral work in his native Dalton when he left us in 1973, after 21 years of faithful stewardship. His interests were many and varied, and always oriented toward the public good. Now he is gone. Farewell to "Cap" Couch and "Cap's Corner."

Mrs. Franklin L. Couch wishes to express her thanks and deep appreciation for the generous Memorial Fund presented to her by the people of Tyringham on behalf of her late husband, the Rev. Franklin L. Couch.

Department of Utter Trivia:--From "The Ragan Report:" "A letter writer complained to The New York Times that it took him a while before he figured out that 'motorized attendance modules,' referred to by a school principal, meant school buses." Ah, the Mother Tongue! What atrocities are committed in thy name. From "Ibid:" "After reading the line on the application card that said, 'Sign here,' the youthful applicant thought a bit and finally wrote, 'Gemini.'"

(Judy Reber)

OUT-OF-TOWN NEWS

Jean Brown's son, Jonathan, who often visits Tyringham with his family, has been invited to give the Slade Lectures at Oxford University.

Bill Dyer has continued his clock repairs, and is now veneering and restoring antique clocks. He also spends time helping to run a self-service store at Boy Scout Headquarters. Connie still does various craft projects, and has become interested in miniature doll house furnishings.

Fred Loring travels extensively as a senior engineer for American Meter; Mary is a supervisor for Harnot Medical Center.

Jonathan Moffett is at Tilton School in N. H.; Sam is at Dexter, and Sarah at home. Anne Moffett is working in real estate in Boston.

Kristin Rambusch, in her second year at Beloit College, was elected vice-president of the Student Body.

Tonio Palmer is spending his Junior-Year-Abroad in Munich.

The Rev. Vesta Thompson writes: "I miss Tyringham and all of you. I'm still deeply involved in Bible Prophecy, and soon will publish a small booklet called 'Prophecy Update.' I still preach in a little church I organized in a mobile home park in Daytona Beach."

(Millicent McIntosh)

GOLDEN HOUR REPORT:

Once again this past summer the Golden Hour returned to Union Church with a record high of 28 children enrolled. Each Friday morning the children gathered for an hour and a half to sing praises, learn new Bible stories, and through the eyes and antics of two new puppet friends, Barnaby-Brutus and his little dog Solomon, they shared in the exciting adventures of the great Apostle Paul as he

traveled with his companions on his famed missionary journeys. The children enjoyed an extra half hour of creative crafts each week, a new and very popular addition to the Golden Hour agenda. Our summer theme, "Jesus, I'm His, He's mine," was presented in five weekly lessons by teachers Robin Clark, Jackie Chaffee of Lee, and Sue Choquette, with the aid of helpers Margie Slater, Beth Curtin, Barb Van Orman, and Mimi Caufield and Marilyn Fennelly of Otis. A special thanks to all these caring and involved people, without whom the Golden Hour could not have been the success it was. The Golden Hour ended, as always, with a picnic and lots of fun, games and goodies at the Union Church. Our greatest thanks and appreciation go out to all the moms who supported us by sending their children and providing us with weekly refreshments.

(Sue Choquette)

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB

The Hop Brook members have had a year of experimentation in their continued efforts to find new ways of raising money. Their Saturday lunches in July made no progress over those in 1978, since they still attracted few hikers, and the local attendance was not large, except at the last one. A new project was a picnic in July at the McLennans', to which each member could bring two guests. We had a lovely day and an enjoyable time; our hosts have encouraged us to enlarge the project next summer.

Knowing of the musical talent available in the Valley, we decided to try a chamber music concert in the Church. The seats were filled, and the enthusiastic audience made a free will offering of over $250. A recital in September, with Anne Palmer and Peggy Rector as pianists, was held in John McLennan's studio-barn. This produced nearly a hundred fans from Tyringham, Stockbridge and Lenox, and a contribution of over $450. We have interesting plans for the future.

Our annaul Fair was held in August, dramatized by the raffle of Grace Slater's quilt, which brought in nearly $300. Other sales totaled $557, so that we were able to pay for the reconstruction of the Parsonage porch, and make contributions to the new Youth Group, and to new storage cases for the Sunday School. We have decided, however, to change our approach next summer by expanding the Saturday Lunches to include a "Farmers Market," sales of baked goods, and other special items. We hope to cooperate with the Valley Club and the Firemen's Ladies Auxiliary.

We miss Grace Slater, but hope she will feel that our future activities, although different from those she so ably led, are worthy of her dedicated service to the Club and the Town.

(Millicent McIntosh, Secretary)

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

SPRING AND SUMMER 1980

REPORTERS: Judy Reber, Millicent McIntosh, Rob Brown

Aren't you glad you live in Tyringham? And summer residents must be glad of a quiet little village in a valley to which to flee from the clutter and clatter; the sights, the sounds, and the smells of more urban areas. We'll gloss over our winter months (after all, this is New England), but the remaining three seasons bring their own special delights: the tender spears of green pushing up through the dark earth in spring--the freshness of daffodils and the scent of lilacs; the warm winds of summer rippling the long grasses; the glorious colors of autumn which stun the eye with their brilliance. And then there is the comparative quiet--the blessed quiet. On a sill summer Sunday morning, perhaps the only sound to be heard will be the bawling of a calf for its mother on the sun-washed slopes of Cobble; or in the very early hours, the raucous calling back and forth of a convocation of crows, trying to settle some crow-crisis. Leaving out the advent of that "engine of internal combustion," we could almost say that ours is the valley that Time forgot. We're lucky. We'll end this paragraph with the three words with which Cap Couch always ended his issues of TOPICS: "Yours for Tyringham!"

(Although the event will be a thing of the past when this issue of TOPICS comes out, as of now we look forward with interest to the church service on June 15, at which time a plaque will be dedicated to our former pastor, the Rev. Franklin L. Couch. The dedication will follow the usual service, after which there will be a buffet lunch in the Community Center. Mrs. Couch and other members of her family expect to attend, and we hope that many of us will too.)

Cradle Corner: Births and Christenings:--To Paul and Marie (Coughlin) Adams, a son, Sean Christopher, on December 9, 1979. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Francis Coughlin of Churchtown, N. Y., and the paternal grandparents are Stet and Barbara Adams of Tyringham ... On December 15, 1979, to Debora (Loring) and Charles Hunt Jr., of Austin, Texas, a daughter, Amy Louise. The maternal grandparents are Dick and Dot Loring of our town, and the paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Hunt of Beesville, Texas ... A daughter, Allison Lee Joyner, on December 19, 1979, to Allan and Martha (Birkett) Joyner of Lenox. The maternal grandparents are Richard and Georgia Birkett of Tyringham, and the paternal grandparents are Stanley and Claudine Joyner of Lenox. To Derick and Barbara (Bogdan) Washburn of Webster Road, a daughter, Stephanie Peach, on March 2, 1980. The maternal grandparents are Barbara and Norbert Bogdan of Tyringham and New York City, and the paternal grandfather is

as tuition, travel, books, tools, or for any other use approved by the Scholarship Committee. The Rev. Richard O'Hara (a member of the Tyringham School Committee) acts as consultant to the Scholarship Committee.

Barbara Adams, president of the Valley Club, tells us that the 1980 slate of officers is as follows: vice-president, Lizbeth Fulleman; secretary, Maryann Fennelly; and treasurer, Betty Cernik. The club plans another flea market, to be held on Saturday, August 2, in the town park. Space can be rented for $5, and anyone can participate.

Artist Suzette Alsop, of the Main Road, had two exhibits of her paintings in April --one at the Becket Art Center and one at The Gallery in Williamstown. Your reporter attended the former and found it most interesting and enjoyable. Suzette's medium is watercolor, which she effectively uses in landscapes (including a number of Tyringham), nudes, and still life.

Catha Rambusch recently was awarded a silver medal by the American Institute of Architects National Award Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records. The award recognized Catha as the designer of the National Catalogue of American Architectural Records. This will be deposited in the Library of Congress, and will be computerized as part of a national network.

Sister Catherine Louise was ordained as a priest on December 28, 1979, by Bishop Colbrun at the Episcopal Cathedral in Boston. She is the daughter of Edward N. Perkins, and the sister of Ned Perkins and Polly Montgomery.

Should you espy an attractive dark feminine head poised over the steering wheel of a large yellow vehicle, it is none other than Deanna Curtin, the first "lady school-bus driver" the town has ever had. Says Deanna, obtaining a license to drive a school bus is no snap. One must first acquire a Class II license, and then take a stiff 20-hour course in bus driving in Sandisfield. This is mandatory by the Commonwealth. She makes four trips daily, taking 35 children into Lee and back. Upon specific inquiry, Deanna said that the children are very well mannered, and that she has no problems with discipline--saying she felt this is a real tribute to the parents. Right on, Deanna!

Sue Choquette tells us that she will again direct the Golden Hour this summer. So far, the time and the schedule have not yet been worked out, due to Sue's roster of work at Willowood. However, emphasis will again be placed on crafts and Bible stories --the former having been very popular last summer.

The Younger Set:--Susannah Elliott, daughter of Clint and Varney Elliott of the George Canon Road, will graduate from Sarah Lawrence with a B.A. degree. Her brother, Alex Elliott, is graduating from the Buxton School in Williamstown, and will go on to Sarah Lawrence in September.

The town's two Lee High School graduates this June are Jeff Cernik and Barbara Van Orman. Barbara and Jeff are the first recipients of the TOPICS scholarship awards. Jeff's interest is in television work, and he will attend Herkimer Community College near Utica, N. Y. Barbara is a member of the National Honor Society and received the R.P.I. Mathematics and Science Award in her junior year. She has matriculated at Hartwick College near Oneonta, N. Y., and will major in medical technology.

John Fawcett, son of Jim and Eugenie Fawcett of Fernside, spent his junior year in Pace, a small rural village outside of Rennes, the capital of Brittany in France. He was one of 60 students participating in the School Year Abroad Program. While there he played on the Rennes Municipal Ice Hockey Team. John also managed to travel through France, Italy and Spain. He will complete his last year at Brooks School in North Andover.

Jennifer Bishop has been appointed to the photographic staff of the Baltimore News-American. This is Baltimore's second daily paper, and Jennifer says that she is the first woman to set foot in that department! She will also do free lance work.

Gordon Washburn of New York City ... The christening of Erin Justine and Shannon Jean LeCompte, daughters of Steven Joseph and Ruth Diane (Heath) LeCompte of Lee, took place at the Tyringham Union Church on April 20, 1980, with the Rev. Richard E. O'Hara officiating.

Deaths:--Arthur DuBois, a former summer resident who was very fond of our little valley, died in Greenwich, Conn., on December 18, 1979. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family.

The town's oldest resident at 94, Mrs. Ingrid Smerling McBrian, of Goose Pond, and mother of Selectman W. Merritt McBrian, died on April 28, 1980. Our deep sympathy to all her family.

The sudden death of Mrs. Viola Picken on May 23, 1980, shocked us all. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her family. We of the Hop Brook Club will especially miss her companionship, her common sense, and her wit.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--Louise P. Prentice, daughter of Ned and "Petey" Perkins, summer residents, was married on January 5, 1980, to Alan Hoblitzell in Bethlehem, Pa. They now reside in Baltimore, where Louie is Assistant Treasurer at Black and Decker.

All Around the Town:--Two important meetings took place, as follows: On January 9, 1980, at the annual meeting of church members, the following officers were elected: Moderator, Charles E. Slater; Clerk, Millicent McIntosh; Treasurer, Richard Warren; Deacon, Bob Choquette; Deaconess, Julia Reber; Member-at-Large, Irma Clark; Auditor, Rustin McIntosh; Trustee, Bill Thober; Finance Committee, Millicent McIntosh; Nominating Committee, vacant; Sunday School Superintendent, Sissie Curtin.

The following town officers were elected on May 19, 1980: Moderator, Charles E. Slater; Selectman, Mary C. Hale (the town's first woman in that office); Cemetery Trustee, M. Christine Bienvenue; School Committee, Kathleen Van Orman; Park Commissioner, Donald B. Hale; Library Trustee, J. Irma Clark; Assessors, Stetson K. Adams and Peter L. Curtin; Auditor, vacant; and Planning Board, Henning C. Carlson.

Challenge for Youth, directed by Gilder Palmer and a staff of three, with Varney T. Elliott as President of the Board, is planning four 10- to 14-day rock-climbing, backpacking, and canoeing trips with young people from the South Berkshire area this summer. If anyone in Tyringham between the ages of 13 and 21 is interested, please call Challenge for Youth at 528-3461.

The Church Flower Committee wishes to express, in these pages, its sincere thanks for the lovely plants and the flower bouquets which thoughtful people brought in to grace the sanctuary during the Easter Service in early April.

The Church Committee wishes to state that a Memorial Fund has been set up in which all contributions made in memory of family or friends shall be deposited, and shall be recorded in a special book to be kept on the table in the Church vestibule. The names of the donors will be listed, but not the amounts. However, any memorial gift of $500 or more will be recorded on a small brass tablet, to be attached to the wooden plaque on the wall of the vestibule.

That guild of energetic "gals" which comprises the Hop Brook Community Club is pleased to announce that it has appropriated $500 from the savings of TOPICS over the last five years, to be used as a scholarship fund for not more than two Tyringham graduates from high school. The recipients may use this money at a four-year institution, at a community college, or at a training school--covering such varied expenses

Department of Utter Trivia:--The inhabitants of Chester, England, evidently have a particularly Puck-ish humor of their own. A sign in a butcher's shop reads as follows: "'Animal Farm'--you've read the book and seen the movie; now eat the cast!"

This reporter would like to dedicate the following original quatrain to all those would-be "Izaak Waltons" who so yearningly cast their lines over bridge parapet and stream bank: Grant me, O Lord, to catch a fish / So big that even I / In boasting of it afterwards / Will have no need to lie!

(Judy Reber)

Youth Fellowship:--The youth group of the Tyringham Union Church has met together on a weekly basis. Sunday morning we began our study of God's Word with the book of Proverbs and then used a Bible study course by Derek Prince, which proved to be exciting. On Sunday afternoons we had a time of recreation. On the rainy and colder days ping pong (table and equipment was graciously donated by the Hop Brook Club) was the center of our recreation. On warmer afternoons the youth group enjoyed events such as roller skating, bowling, and we even entered a miniature golf tournament. For those who participated, enjoyment and friendship were two goals that had been attained. The Tyringham Youth Group offers a special thanks to those mothers who provided delicious refreshments for our Sunday afternoon meetings.

(Rob Brown, Director)

The Hop Brook Community Club:--Hop Brook members met together four times during the winter and spring. Two of our meetings were occupied with discussing the possibility of using $500 of the balance in the Tyringham Topics account for a scholarship. Many people make generous contributions to the Christmas fund, and it was felt that the accumulated surplus should now be used for the benefit of the community.

As has been announced in the news section, the scholarship was approved, a committee was appointed, and two awards were made. We are very proud of Barbara Van Orman and Jeff Cernik, and wish them every success in their careers. We are establishing a scholarship savings account to which people can contribute in honor of special occasions. We were happy, therefore, when the Valley Club helped us have a food sale on Election Day. Carolyn Canon organized and conducted the sale, and made $58 for the fund.

We made final plans for our summer fund raising projects. The first of these is a picnic at Ashintully on June 24 (rain date June 25) to which everyone in the town is invited. We bring our own food and make a contribution of $2 each. After lunch the McLennans hope we will explore their gardens and climb the woodland trail to the ruins of the mansion.

The second project is our Saturday lunches, which will be held this year in August as well as July, in the Church Community Center. We shall expand our bill-of-fare, and hope to add a "farmer's market," to which we can all contribute extra vegetables from our gardens.

We expect to have an evening of dramatic readings, conducted by our stage and television star, Virginia Carothers, and Bill Roerick, well-known actor. The time and program will be announced later.

We are planning a popular concert in August, to be held in the Hall of the Tyringham Galleries. Details of our stars will be announced later. A concert of classical music will take place in September or early October in the McLennans' barn-studio.

We cannot close this report without expressing our grief at the sudden and unexpected death of Viola Picken. For many years she has been one of our most devoted and hard-working members. Nothing was ever too much trouble for her; no task too laborious for her to undertake. We shall greatly miss her contributions to our discussions as well as her effective labors.

(Millicent McIntosh, Secretary)

Tyringham Topics

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AUTUMN AND WINTER 1980

REPORTERS: Julia Reber, Millicent McIntosh, Marjorie Slater

The National Election in November, with its sound and fury, its hue and cry, is over. We can now heave a corporate sigh of relief and get on with the business of living. It remains to be seen if this new administration can restore some of its former greatness to our country, or if it will only be "the mixture as before." We will reserve opinion--guardedly. And now--Merry Christmas to Everyone, from the Staff of TOPICS!

Births:--To Dennis and Nancy (Tonlino) Curtin of Otis, a daughter, Kristen Lynn, on April 17, 1980. The paternal grandparents are John and Davena Curtin of our town, and the maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Tonlino of Otis.... A son, Lucas (Luke) A. was born to Jamie and Liz (Robinson) Perkins on October 16, 1980. The paternal grandparents are summer residents Ned and "Petey" Perkins of Bethlehem, Pa. The three young Perkinses live in Hatfield, Mass.... To George and Nini (Brooke) Gilder on November 19, 1980, a daughter, Mary Ellen (to be known as "Mellie"). The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John L. B. Brooke of Lenox, and the paternal grandparents are Anne Palmer of Tyringham and the late Richard Watson Gilder.

Deaths:--Willis H. Hale of Sunset Farm passed away after a long illness on July 12, 1980. Descendent of one of the few remaining families which settled in Tyringham in the early to mid-1700's, Willis was active in many civic undertakings. He helped form the Tyringham Fire Company, and was at one time fire chief. We proffer our sincere sympathy to his family.... Robert A. Bragdon of Goose Pond in Tyringham died on July 9th as the result of a tragic woodland accident on his property. To the family of this promising young husband, father, and businessman, we send our deepest sympathy.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--On July 4, 1980, Margaret Bond, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Bond of Otis and New Canaan, Conn., was married to Russell W. Loring, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Loring of Otis, formerly of Tyringham. The ceremony was performed in St. Mary's Church in Lee.

All Around the Town:--Jean Brown, of the "Shaker Seed House" on the Main Road, has had a signal honor conferred upon her: She will be listed in the current

issue of "Who's Who in the World." One of 23,000 names worldwide, she has been singled out for her collection of certain aspects of 20th Century Art; for her work on that collection; and for her unstinting help to many people (some from foreign countries), who seek to consult her records. Congratulations, Jean!

Judith Bishop, daughter of Katharine McLennan, has opened a private practice as a nurse-midwife in San Francisco with two other nurse-midwives. They do hospital and home births. This is a far cry from the old occupation of midwifery, since Judith and her associates are professionals with master's degrees in midwifery--Judith's being from Columbia University. May their practice prosper!

Sissie Curtin, President of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Firemen's Company, states that they plan to get out another Emergency Letter to the town residents. In case of a power failure's lasting more than four hours, residents are invited to go to the firehouse. If anyone needs answers to questions, or is in need of transportation, please get in touch with any one of the following ladies on the Emergency Committee: Sissie Curtin (243-2999); Helen Curtin (243-2146); Marion Leach (243-0907); Marion Whalen (243-3691). Sissie states that their Birthday Calendar Project has netted a profit of over $500. Great! In the recent past, the Auxiliary has bought 50 chairs for use in the firehouse, and a flagpole to adorn its outside. A bouquet for the ladies of the Auxiliary!

Lizbeth Fullemann, our postmaster for four years, has resigned from that position to work elsewhere. Helen Curtin is now postmaster four days a week, and Irma Clark officiates behind the post office grille on Fridays and Saturdays.

Valley Club President Barbara Adams tells us that the Flea Market they held last summer, involving 16 tables, was a complete success. Also, the club supplied the refreshments for the children's halloween party held in the Community Center. They contributed toward the purchase of the handsome Sunday School room dividers, which now grace the Community Center; they wielded paint brushes to assist in the Park Department's painting of the picnic tables at the town swimming pool; and, headed up by Carolyn Canon, held a food sale on election day which brought in $65. Nice work. And while on the subject of the Community Center, please be informed that it has had a complete face-lift. With artist Suzette Alsop, of the Main Road, as "color-advisor," the walls of the center are now a pale yellow, and the ceiling is snowy white. The change-over is dramatic. The light colors have made the room look larger, and infinitely more cheerful. In an oil-saving measure, we are now holding our Sunday services in the center. Come have your spirits lifted by the new décor and Dick O'Hara's sermons.

A word should be said about the buffet lunch and memorial service held on Sunday, June 15, 1980, in honor of the Rev. Franklin ("Cap") Couch, minister here for 21 years. Our pastor, Dick O'Hara, read one of Cap's old sermons entitled, "The Needed Church," which was certainly evocative of Cap and his ministry in Tyringham. The presentation of a plaque, in Cap's memory, was made by Deacon Ken Jones, in the presence of Mr. Couch's widow, Ruth, and some members of his family. There was an excellent turn-out, and after the service, lunch was served in the Community Center.

Kay Palmer, after 25 years as an officer of the Chase Manhattan Bank of New York (which included a tour of duty in Brazil), has resigned and has been named business counselor for the Central Berkshire area by General Business Services, Inc.--a national small business counseling organization. A summer resident in growing-up years, Kay is now settled in at Hickory Farm, from which he will run his business. May success crown his new career.

CHRISTMAS 1980

"And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling-clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:12

The shepherds were simply ordinary shepherds. They were men just as you and I and yet on that night they were drowned in that glorious light that faded from them into the common night.

Away to Bethlehem they went, with this faith in their hearts, and by unerring instinct it led them to Jesus. If they had gone adding something to the angel's message, they might still not yet have arrived. They were looking for a babe in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes ... obviously hastily born. No fine clothing ready in a score of drawers, no nurses round about as when babies are born in our houses. There was a suddenness, an unreadiness; yet the angels were there ... and God was there ... and He was telling us that the barest is enough for him.

In this season, sacred to both Jew and Christian alike, let us pause to remember that despite the claims of our world, more is frequently less, and the most humble is often the greatest.

Do not look too high, or too low, or too far away, but take hold of the sign and do not lose it. May the blessings of God be upon you in this Christmas and Hanukkah season!

--Richard O'Hara, Minister, Union Church

C H R I S T M A S G R E E T I N G S !

Stet, Barbara and Steve Adams
Peter Adams
Paul, Marie and Sean Adams
Sharon Adams
Robert C. and Suzette Alsop
Walt, Rosa, Walt Jr. and Heidi Alward
Sheila and Kerstin Anderson
Bria Arpanti
Rev. and Mrs. Charles Austin
Roy, Chris, D.C. and R. Christian Bienvenue
Richard and Georgia Birkett
Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Bogdan
Constance E. Bouchard
Mrs. Robert Bragdon and Children
In memory of Robert (Butch) Bragdon
Donald and Lillian Bridgham
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Brighenti
Bob, Mary Ann and Nicole Brown
Mrs. Leonard (Jean) Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Brown, Clair and Michael

Mrs. Robert Brown
Jakob and Irmgard Bucher and Family
Arthur and Nora Buckley
Carl and Diane Butler, Rick and Terri
Helen "Gussie" Butler
Carolyn G. Canon
Mr. and Mrs. John N. Canon, and Jennifer
John, Marie, Scott and Brian Canon
Dorothy B. Canon
In memory of Clifford R. Canon
Mike, Sue, Amy and Mia Carlotto
In memory of Joan E. Clark
Carolyn Carlson
In memory of Henning M. Carlson
In memory of Martin L. Butler
In memory of Thelma B. Carlson
Henning, Joyce, Michael and Kimberly Carlson
Virginia D. Caruthers
Larry, Betty, Jeff and Randy Cernik
Dick, Kathy and Jessica Cernik
Don, Jeremy and Scott Cernik
Peter and Gail Charpentier
Bob, Sue and Aubrey Choquette
Harvey and Dot Choquette
Chuck, Terry, David and Jon Clark
Duffy and Irma Clark
Robert, Pat, Robin, Kristin and Bob Clark
Thomas Coley
Mrs. Franklin L. Couch
Agnes Curtin
Carl, Chris, Christine and Larry Curtin
Gene, Nancy, Kevin, and Baby Gene Curtin
Jerry, Marilyn, Butchie, Kelly, Beth and Stephen Curtin
John and Davena Curtin
Johnny, Sissy, Mike, Mark and Lori Curtin
Mary Curtin and Mother, Mrs. Fisher
Neil and Helen Curtin, Gerald, Molly, Mary and Tim
Peter, Deanna, Peter Jr., Jamie and Matty Curtin
Tommy and Maggie Curtin
Ann and Donald Davis
Chip and Karen Davis
Gary and Sharon Davis, Jennifer and Ryan
Jean P. Davis
Harry Ellis Dickson
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer W. Dodge
Paul and Doreen Dodge, and Tylee
Thomas and Harriet Dodge, and Aaron
Mrs. John K. Donald, and Alison
Bernice Downs; Marge Downs Szewczak
Bill Downs
In memory of Fred W. Downs
Everell Downs
Gerry, Donna, Gerry Jr., Jean, Chris and Patti Drake
The Dukakis Family
Josiane, Bob and Michael DuVernois, and Cecile Ford
Art and Aggie Dyer
Bill and Connie Dyer
Doug and Janet Eddy

Louis and Marcia Eisenberg
Clinton, Varney, Susannah, Alex and Rosy Elliott
Bev, Jim, Eric and Heidi Elsensohn
Ann, John, Andi, Alex, Parker and Eleanor Emerson
Eugénie and Jim Fawcett, John, Donald, Nan and James
Eddie, Dianne, Adam and Darrell Fennelly
Mary Ann Fennelly, Everett, Amy and Kathleen
Tom Fennelly
Dawn and Michael Fredette
George, Nini, Louisa and Mary Ellen (Mellie) Gilder
Rodman, Mellie, David and Joshua Gilder
Rosamond Gilder
Elizabeth Gilmore
In memory of Arthur Gilmore Sr.
In memory of Arthur Gilmore Jr.
George and Jean Hale
David Hale
The Hales of Sunset Farm
Judith and Charles Hauer
Sandy, Arnold, Cathy and Suzie Hayne
Anna Cortland Heath
Roy Heath
In memory of Candace Heath
Eleanor and John (Rocky) Hoag
Ken, Berta, Kenny and Linda Jones
Al, Martha, Jason and Allison Joyner
Fred and Phyllis Judd
In memory of Eloise Myers
In memory of Beaulah Cannon
Tom, Debbie and Keith Kasprzak
Wil, Mary D., Plum and Nicky Kierstead
Grace E. Knickerbocker
Julia Dodge Korst, Cecilie and Heidi
George and Betty Kramer, and Alice, Hawley and Charles Truax
Doug and Marion Leach
Steven, Ruth, Erin and Shannon LeCompte
Eugene, Lucca, Andreas and Mary Lehner
Bruce R. Logan
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Logan
Beatrice and Charles Loring Sr.
Dot and Dick Loring and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Loring
Jim and Nellie Loring, Robert and Karen Yeager; James, Evelyn and Jennifer Loring
Olive Loring
Russ and Margaret Loring
Tunk, Dede, Elaine, Chuck and Tony Loring
Margaret, Barrie, Alex, Charles and James Luchars
W. Merritt and Marylou McBrian
Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCarthy
C. Douglas McCarthy
Rustin and Millicent McIntosh; Jim, Carey, Sue, Ken, Dick
Katharine and John McLennan and Family
Robert S. Marulli
The Millers: Ted, Helena, Rod, Katherine, Gabe, Judy, Steve, Tess, Amasa, Mirella, Elisa, Ginny, Molly
Polly and Ray Montgomery

Marie S. Moore
Grace A. Morin
Ruth and James Morse and Family
The Moskin Family
Dr. and Mrs. Theodore Nelson; Theodora Nelson
Dick, Marilyn and Joshua O'Hara
Lois C. Olds
Miss Olga Olin
Francesca Gilder Palmer (Mrs. W. W.)
Gilder, Anne and Reece Palmer
Helena, Tonio, Lisa and Kay Palmer
John and Hylie Pappenheimer, Glenn, Will, Ros and Richard
Edward N. Perkins, Ned and Petey, Louie and Hobb,
Neddy and Cathy, Jamie, Liz and Luke, David, Kate
Mr. and Mrs. Phillips Pursell
Jesse Pierce
In memory of Helen Butler
Viggo and Catha, Kristin, Edwin, Martin and Lucia Rambusch
Tootie, Fred, Martha and Jim Read
Judy and Peggy Reber
Margaret and Susan Rector
Mr. and Mrs. Guy I. Robb
William Roerick
Mrs. John S. Rudd
Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Salzmann
The Santonastasis, Joan, Ronnie, Chris and Elizabeth
Eugene, Ina, Eric, Nancy and Vicki Schnell
Leonard, Henriette and Andrew Schwartz
The Shain Family
Charlie, Liz, Marge and Sam Slater
Chuck, Alice, April and Ryan Slater
Grace Slater
Gene and Mary Smith and Family
Padraic T. Spence, Joan Spence; Isabelle Clark, Blair
Clark; Paddy Spence, Colin Spence, Justin Spence
Mary Elizabeth Spencer
Timothy L. Stanton and Mary Herlihy, Michael Herlihy
Jo B. Stott
Gerald and Ruth Swart, Reed and Sally
Alice Thain
Bill and Blanche Thober
Rev. Vesta Thompson; Frank E. Balsor
Marguerite Tiffany
Mr. and Mrs. Asher E. Treat
Gerry, Toni and Nancy Twing
Helen and Eddie Twing
Sidney and Brian Urquhart, Rachel and Charlie
Gordon, Kate, Brenda, Glenn and Barbara Van Orman
Barbara and Deric Washburn, Jennifer and Stephanie
Mrs. Emily B. Welsh
Joe, Marion and Denny Whalen
Joe and Darleen Wilkinson and Family
Kerry Williams
Bert, Karen, Keith, Timmy and Chad Williams
Evelyn Winters
In memory of Michael Winters
Lillian, Michael, James, Troy, Patrick and
Melissa Winters
In memory of Kenneth (Red) Winters

The Rev. Vesta Thompson has moved with her father to Steep Falls, Maine. She sends affectionate greetings to all her Tyringham friends. Mr. Balser is now 96, and in good health.

Joe Whalen, fire chief, tells us that the Steak Roast and Bier Fest held last summer were tremendous successes. He especially wants to thank the townspeople for their generous support, not only on these two occasions, but throughout the year. The same two festivities are being planned for next year. Joe expressed great gratitude for the many things the Ladies' Auxiliary has done to assist the Fire Company. And speaking of our valiant firemen, they performed heroically at a fire which consumed Virginia Caruthers' barn-studio on Webster Road last summer. The alarm was quickly turned in, but despite the firemen's prompt response, the building was completely engulfed in flames upon their arrival, and posed a definite threat to the attached house. Nonetheless, the fire was extinguished in record time, and with only little water and smoke damage to Virginia's home. Subsequently, under extremely difficult conditions, and in the best tradition of the theater--"the show must go on"--Virginia and Bill Roerick rehearsed their parts for an entertainment they gave at the church not many days later. They both gave superb performances, in regard to which Secretary of the Hop Brook Club might have more to say.

Davena Curtin tells us that the Red Cross drive for this year netted $520--a goodly sum for this small town. The children continue to have their free summer swimming lessons; and Davena herself was presented with a Thirty-Year Pin for her volunteer services to the Red Cross. Congratulations, Davena.

All children--permanent residents as well as such "summer children" as may be here during that festive period--are invited to the Annual Children's Party at the town hall on Friday, December 19th, at 7 o'clock. Come see what the man in the red suit has for you.

Department of Utter Trivia:--People who go in for acupuncture are holier than thou. (From "Today's Chuckle.") Prospective car buyer: "You mean that little compact costs $9,000? Why, that's almost the price of a big car." Salesman: "Well, sir, if you want economy, you've got to pay for it." (Dundalk [Ont.] Herald.) It's said we don't see ourselves as others see us. That can be cured by running for office. (Wall Street Journal.)

(Julia Reber)

YOUTH NEWS:--In times past, Sue Slater Choquette has ably reported on the youth activities of the town. Now her combined rôles of wife, mother, and nurse at the Willowood Nursing Home in Great Barrington, have placed too many demands on her time. Her sister, Marjorie Slater, age 14, has graciously consented to carry on the reporting in this area of the town's activities. We welcome Marjorie--our youngest reporter ever!

Presently we have no active youth group in town, but have had various activities throughout the summer and fall. During the summer, Sue Choquette and Barbara Van Orman organized our annual Golden Hour which originated with our former Pastor, Rev. Vesta Thompson. Each summer for the past five years, the Golden Hour, with its purpose of teaching children the love of God, has been held at the Tyringham Union Church. The Golden Hour is loved by all children because of its many exciting crafts, puppet shows, and other fun activities. Sue would like to thank the following who helped to make it successful: Janice Curtin, Barbara Van Orman, Ruth LeCompte, Robin Clark, and all the children for participating.

On November 1st, Janice Curtin, Alice Slater and Sue Choquette put on a Halloween Party in the community center following the little parade that marched

from the town park to the church. At the church there were various contests and games to play. The costume contest was judged by Mrs. McLennan, Mrs. Mary Hale, and Mr. O'Hara. By age groups, the winners in the one- to three-year-olds were: Aubrey Choquette, most scary; Nicole Brown, most original; Lori Curtin, prettiest. Four- to six-year-olds: April Slater, prettiest; Watson Brothers, most original; Ryan Slater, scariest. Seven-year-olds and up: Douglas Brown, most scary; Mary Curtin, prettiest; Marge Slater, most original. In the pumpkin contest, Kathy Fennelly was the winner. After the contest and games, Sam Slater drove a hay wagon around town with lots of children riding it. Thanks to all who participated.

Janice Curtin is holding the Sunday School each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for all children who wish to come.

(Marjorie Slater)

THE HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB:--The summer season was busy for the Hop Brook Club. In June we had a delightful picnic in the McLennans' garden, on such a hot day that the children present played in the fountain! This produced $50 for our treasury.

In July, we took advantage of the fact that two Tyringhamites are well known actors. Virginia Dwyer Caruthers and Bill Roerick read selections from books written in or about the Tyringham Valley: Jean Webster's Daddy Longlegs, Richard Watson Gilder's poetry, E. M. Forster's reminiscences, and a play by Sidney Howard. The big turnout and the contributions of over $400 were a great tribute to the performers.

We sponsored six Saturday lunches during July and August, with Milly McIntosh and Jean Brown in charge. We had 20 to 35 people at each lunch, and everyone seemed to enjoy them. We discussed at length whether they were worth while because we cleared only $175, and they involved a good deal of work. But we have decided to have them again next summer, and to develop ways of making them more attractive. We had a number of hikers as guests, including Philip Scriver from England, who wrote this note for us: "Tyringham Hall is 3 miles from my home. It is now a famous health farm. They specialize in treating people with addictions (smoking, over-eating, etc.). Thanks for the lovely meal."

The Valley Club gave us a table at the August Flea Market, where we sold our left-over fancy work, as well as sandwiches and drinks. Jean Brown and Carolyn Canon were in charge, and turned in over $60 to our treasury.

We still miss Grace Slater, and realize that we must use our wits to devise new ways of raising money. But we greatly value our monthly meetings and luncheons together, and are determined to make ourselves useful to the Church and the Community.

(Millicent McIntosh, Secretary)

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

SPRING AND SUMMER 1981

REPORTERS: Julia Reber, Millicent McIntosh, Elizabeth Spencer

Inasmuch as this issue of TOPICS is somewhat on the plump side, we will refrain from a long introductory paragraph. For some strange reason, when writing to friends or relatives, we can soar into the empyrean; but when writing for public consumption, we feel fettered. So without discussing the -30°F temperature of last winter (it was bad enough living through it), or the vexatious problems posed by the imminent closing of the Town Dump, we will just get on with it.

Births and Baptisms:--While half the valley held its breath--at long last, on April 13, 1981, a son, Jesse Daniel, to Richard and Marilyn (Widmer) O'Hara. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Widmer of Wayne, Pa., and the paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. William B. Miller of Baltimore, Md. Jesse Daniel was baptized by his father, the Rev. Richard E. O'Hara, in the Tyringham Union Church on April 26.....On March 14, 1981, a son, Bryan, to Donald D. Jr. and Karen (Campion) Davis of Pittsfield. The maternal grandmother is Mrs. Raymond McDonough of St. Petersburg, Fla., and the paternal grandparents are Don and Ann Davis of our town.....Nicole Gillett Brown, daughter of Robert and Mary Ann (Nackoul) Brown, was baptized by the Rev. O'Hara on April 12, 1981, in the Union Church.

Deaths:--Charles M. Loring Sr., husband of Beatrice (Rowley) Loring of Otis, formerly of Tyringham, died on February 13, 1981, after a long illness. We extend our sincerest sympathy to his family.....The death of Mrs. Helen (Gussie) Clark Butler, sister of Carolyn Clark Carlson, occurred on March 25. We tender deepest sympathy to her family.....Although Professor Robert C. Elliott was not a native of our town, he was married to the former Mary Curtin who was born and raised here. His death in California, where he resided, on April 13, was sudden and unexpected. Our sincere regrets are extended to all his family.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--At his home in Solsberry, Ind., Kevin Leach was married to Nancy-Jo Randall of Hammond, Ind., on May 23, 1981. The parents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Randall of Hammond; the groom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Douglas C. Leach of our town.....On June 13, in the Thober garden, Karl B. Thober of Framingham, son of F. W. Thober of the Main Road, will be married to Renate S. White of Quincy. The Rev. Richard E. O'Hara will officiate at the nuptials. Brenda Van Orman, daughter of Gordon and Kate Van Orman of the Main

Road, will be married on July 25 in the First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., to Andrew McCreight, son of Mr. and Mrs. James McCreight of Orlando, Fla.

All Around the Town:--The members of the Tyringham Union Church, at a meeting on January 14, 1981, elected the following officers: Moderator, Charles E. Slater; Clerk, Millicent McIntosh; Treasurer, Elizabeth Slater; Deacon, Kenneth Jones; Deaconess (none this year); Members-at-Large, Margaret R. Curtin and Julia Reber; Auditor, Rustin McIntosh; Trustee, Carolyn Canon; Finance Committee, Fred Judd; Nominating Committee, Julia Reber; Sunday School Superintendent, Janice Curtin.

On May 18, the following town officers were elected: Moderator, Charles E. Slater Sr.; Selectman, Walter deKaye Palmer; Town Clerk, Alice M. Hale; Town Treasurer (vacant); Cemetery Trustee, Charles E. Slater Sr.; Library Trustee, Agnes B. Curtin; Assessor, Edward Fennelly; Auditor (vacant); Planning Board, Gerald B. Swart; School Committee, Alice E. Slater; Park Commission, Shaun Murphy.

The officers of the Valley Club for the current year are: President, Lisbeth Fullemann; Vice-President, Barbara Adams; Treasurer, Betty Cernik; Secretary, Holly Murphy. We are informed that the club will not sponsor a Flea Market this year.

In January, the Tyringham-Lee Rough Riders 4-H Club elected the following officers for 1981: Heather Treat, president; Kerstin Anderson, vice president; Kim Raftery, secretary; Monica Celli, treasurer; Stephanie Treat, scrapbook holder; and Heather Treat, news reporter.

A Fish Story:--On February first, the congregation of our church was rewarded (beyond the usual excellence of the Rev. O'Hara's sermon) by his offer to the Faithful of 40 pounds of boned and filleted frozen fish, previously caught by his own hand. This was necessitated by Dick's needing the space in his freezer for an acquisition of beef--lucky man! Many of us took home a parcel of fish. (What, Dick, no loaves?) No sacrilege intended; the fish was delicious.

Summer resident Catha Rambusch is continuing the excellent work she started a few years ago with regard to the preservation of architectural records in this country--for which she was awarded a silver medal by the American Institute of Architects. During the last week in April she flew to London where she addressed the International Confederation of Museums of Architecture at the Royal Institute of British Architects on the Cataloging of American Architectural Records--a model for international cooperation. This sort of linkage between nations must surely be of the highest importance. Congratulations, Catha!

Clint Elliott, indefatigable pursuer of Tyringham-iana in behalf of the Historical Commission, has asked us to print the following announcement--which we do with pleasure and alacrity: "A room next to the Post Office in the Library has just been refurbished. In it will be placed things relating to Tyringham's history: books, manuscripts, letters, photographs, scrapbooks, et cetera. The room has been equipped with bookshelves, table and chairs, and will be under the supervision of the librarian. The Tyringham Historical Commission earnestly asks anyone who has such material, and is willing to share it, to donate or loan it. Everything received will be carefully catalogued, placed on the shelves, and be available, for use in the room to all who are interested in the history of our town." At this point your editor would like to remark that whereas all members of this Commission are hard at work on one project or another, a special bouquet should be tendered Marcia Eisenberg of Riverside Farm, a newcomer in our midst, who already has typed countless pages of data pertaining to Tyringham's past.

(To our readers: We are pleased to present a new contributor to TOPICS--Liz Spencer of the Main Road--whose articles will appear in the Spring-Summer issues. She will interview either a local or a summer resident in depth (insofar as these pages allow). Liz was at one time a journalist for Time magazine, and in recent years she has done free-lance writing. We're sure you'll enjoy what follows. --J.R.)

He drives from New York City about 150 miles to relax in Tyringham as often as he can. But when he's not plying his rake or stoking his fire, he's often airborne--some 100,000 miles a year--as president of one of the country's oldest and most distinguished decorating companies.

Viggo Bech Rambusch is the third generation to head a firm founded in 1898 by his Danish-born grandfather. In the 82 intervening years The Rambusch Company has had a hand in the decoration or restoration of many a famous building. Since the original Waldorf-Astoria and the historic Baltimore Cathedral, Rambusch's first important commissions, it has been identified with every 20th century style.

In the Roaring Twenties it was the movie palaces with their gilded plasterwork, mythological murals and elaborate lighting fixtures. Rambusch decorated more than 800 of them including the largest and most lavish of all, the Roxy. Viggo's late uncle Harold was president then and had assembled such a talented group that the firm directed the 6,214-seat Roxy's color scheme, advised on lighting, did the painting and gilding of the plasterwork, designed the carpets and the draping of the proscenium arch. More modest but every bit as much a part of the Manhattan scene during those heady years were the 30 Horn and Hardart automats styled and painted by Rambusch. But eclectic as the firm was--and is--it continued to be engaged in church and other work such as the lighting for Daniel Chester French's statue of Abraham Lincoln in the great Washington monument to the Civil War president.

When Art Deco swept the nation Rambusch's pre-Depression highlights included the lobby of the Empire State Building (with its ceilings of gold, silver and bronze), the public rooms of the new Waldorf (now fashionably located on Park Avenue), polychroming of Lee Lawrie's monumental sculptured mural in the lobby of Rockefeller Center's RCA Building, hanging the vast Ezra Winter painted mural in the Radio City Music Hall.

Church work kept the firm alive during the Depression until 1938 when work began on the New York World's Fair of 1939-40. Some 400 of its artists and craftsmen worked on 32 of the Fair's buildings or exhibits, including the General Motors and Ford pavilions. During World War II Rambusch turned to concealment. The firm's craftsmen camouflaged forts, arsenals, factories and airfields by disguising them as farms and orchards. Perhaps 10,000 blackout porthole ventilators, designed by Rambusch, allowed ship portholes to be opened for air without emitting light. The firm made 60 elaborate lighting panels which were used to train searchlight personnel; it produced radar antennas for such U. S. ships as the battleship "Missouri."

While Viggo began his apprenticeship when he was 14 working summers as a

painter-decorator, it wasn't until the late 1950s that he could fulfill his early ambition to become part of the family business. He only recently turned 50, after all. He had earned a B.A. at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, served in the U. S. Corps of Engineers in Germany and France, worked as a decorator-mechanic in Copenhagen and London, taken study tours of Spain and Italy and earned a Master of Fine Arts in architecture at Catholic University. With that behind him--but with no leads--he was dispatched to call on architects and develop new business.

He knew that by this time the firm was capable of just about anything. In the 1950s it had lighted the main lobbies of Lever House (still one of Manhattan's most distinguished postwar buildings), developed the great seal of the U. S. which hangs outside the American Embassy in New Delhi, designed lighting for the expansion of the East Front of the U. S. Capitol, plus innumerable church and public building work. It was continually being rehired by the same architects and called back to spruce up projects it had originated. Late in the 1960s, just before he became president, Viggo was asked by the Metropolitan Museum of Art to develop, engineer and fabricate a new lighting system for the museum's Great Hall with its three 60-foot domes which are 72 feet above the floor. For the Tyringham Union Church he designed a new chandelier.

During the 1970s Rambusch's contributions to the American scene are impressive indeed. His cousin Robert directed the design and installation of the largest leaded glass window in North America--13,000 square feet--in the Lovers Lane Methodist Church in Dallas. Architect I. M. Pei asked Viggo to engineer lighting for the dramatic main court of the new East Wing of Washington's National Gallery of Art. Restoration work ranged from such outstanding projects as the interior of the Senate Chamber in the U. S. Capitol to New York City's historic Trinity Church, the Oak Room of the Plaza Hotel, New York City's imposing Villard Houses, the Chicago Public Library, the Minnesota State Capitol (bringing to more than 30 the state capitols on which the firm has worked), the First Church of Christ Scientist in Boston (making the total of religious buildings more than 9,000), and the relighting of Grand Central Station. That decade also produced two contributions to lighting technology for which Viggo holds patents.

What does the next decade hold? Much of his 1980 travels pinpoint its early years. In Sacramento, California, in early January he organized the restoration of the Crocker Art Museum, returning one of the country's finest examples of Victorian decoration to its original splendor. Lighting in Saudi Arabia and Canada, restoration of New York City's famed Woolworth Building's stained glass skylight, chandeliers and sconces for a Salt Lake City concert hall--and so it goes as we skim the surface of the vast and varied workd of The Rambusch Company.

Viggo says "the thing I'm most interested in is the job we haven't gotten yet." But even a man of his boundless enthusiasms couldn't survive all those miles he spends submitting proposals and supervising installation without the escape hatch of Tyringham. Never mind that business telephone calls have a way of invading the limited time he can pause and refuel here. With his family Viggo savors the special quality Tyringham brings to his life. Perhaps, one day, he'll hole up here and write a book about design in America as seen through The Rambusch Company's history.

Authors Galore!--George Gilder of the Main Road has been cutting quite a wide swath with his new book, Wealth and Poverty. Even unto appearing on TV's "Sixty Minutes" program. Since lecturing on his book at the Town Hall on February 15th, George has been jetting all around the country--we trust for very fat fees. The Berkshire Eagle reported that President Reagan even gave a copy of the book to a friend of his whom he visited in the hospital, we assume as required reading. (Basic Books, $16.95).....Dr. Reese F. Alsop, who spent his early years in Tyringham, has brought out Back Talk, a slim volume of poetry, embracing subjects tender, nostalgic, humorous and down-to-earth. We found the poems delightful. (Published by William L. Bauhan, Dublin, N. H. 83444, $6.95).....Summer Resident Harry E. Dickson has written Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops. Mr. Dickson, the late maestro's assistant conductor for forty years, shows the other side of Arthur Fiedler's complex personality. (Houghton Mifflin, $12.95).....Robert Littell's new suspense novel, The Amateur, just out, has received excellent reviews. (Simon and Schuster, $12.95)

Lisa Palmer has just completed the first auction ever of Latin-American art at Christie's. This is a highly specialized area of modern art, and the auction was very successful. Lisa credits her years of living in Brazil as an important factor in her knowledgeability and comprehension of this art. Congratulations, Lisa!

Red Cross Chairman Davina Curtin reports that the recent drive netted $565 to date, with more money expected as time goes on. Her daughter-in-law, Helen Curtin, was her most able assistant.

The Younger Set:--The following young people of Tyringham graduated from the Lee High School in June: Gerald Curtin, son of Neil and Helen Curtin; Terrence Curtin Jr., son of Terrence Sr. and Marilyn Curtin; Amy Fennelly, daughter of Everett and Marilyn Fennelly; and Sam Slater, son of Charles and Elizabeth Slater. On the basis of his scholastic achievement, Sam has won the Hop Brook Community Club's 1981 Scholarship Award. He plans to enter the Cobleskill Agricultural and Technical College in New York State.....Tonio Palmer, son of Kay and Lisa Palmer, graduated from Bowdoin College in Maine, where he majored in economics and German. For the summer months he will be employed as the tennis pro at the Stockbridge Country Club. His sister, Helena, graduated from the Chapin School in New York City, and will enter Harvard in the fall.....John Fawcett, son of Jim and Eugenie Fawcett, graduated from Brooks School, where he was elected to the school's chapter of the Cum Laude Society. He will enter Brown University in the fall.....Alice Truax, daughter of Betty Kramer and the late Rudd H. Truax, graduated from Vassar. Her brother, Hawley Truax, graduated from Groton and will enter Amherst this autumn.

Department of Utter Trivia:--London Times columnist Alan Hamilton predicts that when Prince Charles assumes the British throne with the former Lady Diana Spencer as his queen, they will be known as "The King and Di.".....From Today's Chuckle: Once again, the United States government is being forced to defend the dollar--for impersonating money.....From Successful Meetings: One day instead of serving the usual hot meal, the school cafeteria handed out peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. After lunch, a satisfied first-grader marching out the door complimented the cafeteria manager: Finally you gave us a home cooked meal."

(Julia Reber)

NOTICE:--Goose Pond-ers, Tyringhamites, All! If you have an item which would be of interest to TOPICS, will you please call Judy Reber, 243-1822? Thank you.

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB

The Club has had a busy winter, including meetings nearly every month and one major project. We held our Christmas meeting at Katharine McLennan's, where we had

a festive lunch to which members made contributions of food. Ruth Couch and Annette Rudd were our guests.

In January, we became aware that one of our neighbors, George Gilder, was becoming nationally famous with his new book, Wealth and Poverty. We invited him to give a talk for us in the Town Hall at which we could take a free-will offering for the church and our scholarship fund. He was able to accept, and we promptly sent out notices to bank and business executives, as well as to all members of the town and our friends in Berkshire County. The Town Hall was crowded, and George gave a lively presentation of his book. We took in over $300, including $50 paid us by the Lenox Book Store for their royalties on books sold after the lecture.

Because of the generosity of many Tyringhamites past and present who contributed to the TOPICS Christmas fund, we were able again to award a scholarship to a high school graduate. As has been announced in "The Younger Set," it was given to Sam Slater. We have discussed ways of adding to our fund, and hope to have at least one benefit for it this summer.

We decided to move our picnic at Ashintully to another date in order to escape black flies, and will have it this year on Sunday, August 30, so that people who have jobs will be able to come. Other projects are in the planning stage, and we will have our Saturday lunches in July at the Community Center.

(Millicent McIntosh, Secretary)

Tyringham Topics

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AUTUMN AND WINTER 1981

REPORTERS: Julia Reber, Millicent McIntosh, Marjorie Slater

Despite the fact that with this issue we had to increase the price of our little village paper, the response was as generous and as heartwarming as ever. Thank you--we are deeply grateful to you all. And now, from the staff of TOPICS (all three of us!):

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Births:--To Wendy (Soules) and Mickey Love, a daughter, Sara Pat, on April 22, 1981. The maternal grandparents are Norman and Patricia Soules; the maternal great-grandparents are John and (Davena) Curtin. ... To Chucky and Terry (Briggs) Clark, a son, Kevin Charles, On July 9, 1981. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Briggs of Lee; the paternal grandparents are Duffy and Irma Clark of our town; and Mr. Charles Laurenti of Lee is the great-grandfather. ... We all were beginning to think it was only a mirage; however, on July 18, 1981, a son, Noah Samuel, was born to Bob and Sue (Slater) Choquette. The maternal grandparents are Charlie and Liz Slater of Crystal Brook Farm; the paternal grandparents are Harvey and Dot Choquette of the Main Road; and the great-grandmother is Grace Slater. ... To Fred and Evelyn (Tootie Twing) Read, a daughter, Sarah Helen, on August 9, 1981. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Twing of Tyringham, and the paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Read of Lenoxdale. ... Niall Jameson, son of Shaun and Holly (Nebinger) Murphy, was born on September 30, 1981. ... A daughter, Ashley Lynn, was born to Charles and Deby (Loring) Hunt, in Beeville, Texas, on October 16, 1981. The maternal grandparents are Dick and Dot Loring of Church Road; the paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hunt Sr. of Beeville; and the great-grandmother is Olive Loring of Church Road.

Deaths:--A valued friend of the Robert Moskin family, Mrs. Paula Mattlin, died in New York City on June 10, 1981. Mrs. Mattlin, a summer resident here, had always expressed great love for Tyringham. To her family and friends we convey deep sympathy. ... Mrs. Mary N. Fisher, the town's oldest inhabitant and mother of Mary F. Curtin, died on August 11, 1981, after a long illness. To Mary and her family we convey our sincere sympathy. ... Glenn Pappenheimer, son of summer residents Dr. and Mrs. John Pappenheimer, died suddenly in Taos, New Mexico, on September 26, 1981.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his grieving family. ... Charles R. Stanton, formerly of Tyringham, died on October 14, 1981, at Midway City, Calif. He was a veteran of the Korean War. To all his family we extend our deepest sympathy.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--Stephen C. Day of Lenox (formerly of Tyringham), son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman G. A. Day, was married to Margaret R. Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Moore of Goose Pond, Lee, on September 12, 1981, at St. Mary's Church in Lee. Father McCormack officiated. Other bells rang out as well. On October 19th, in a nationwide celebration of the Yorktown Bicentennial, the church and school house bells rang out here at noon--courtesy of Dick and Georgia Birkett, ably assisted by daughter Martha Joyner and grandchildren Jason and Allison. Patriotism still flourishes in our little valley!

All Around the Town:--With Maggie Curtin's organizing abilities (in conjunction with her excellent helpers), two church suppers were held this year: The Strawberry Festival in June and the Harvest Supper in October. Both were financial successes. As far as the latter supper is concerned, would that we had the space to go into detail regarding "The Mysterious Disappearance (and Reappearance) of Millie McIntosh's Turkey!" But that is another story.

Barbara Van Orman, daughter of Kate and Gordon Van Orman of the Main Road, has received the Freshman Chemistry Award conferred annually by Hartwick College, Oneonta, N. Y. Congratulations, Barbara!

John and Davena Curtin celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 19, 1981. The gala event was held at the Knox Trail Inn in East Otis, and was organized by their eight children, all of whom were able to attend. Davena estimates that between their relatives and friends, about 200 persons attended the festive dinner.

On October 31st, a mixed bag of witches, goblins, ghosts Walt Disney characters and space-men foregathered at the Community Center in celebration of Hallowe'en. They were plied with cocoa and soda drinks, and doughnuts supplied by the Valley Club. Then off to tricking-and-treating, during the process of which they managed to collect $36.90 for UNICEF. Good work, children!

Sissy Curtin tells us that this year the Children's Christmas Party will be held in the Town Hall on December 17th at 6:30 p.m., and is under the auspices of the Ladies' Auxiliary. As is customary, the hard candy will be supplied by the firemen, the boxed chocolates by the Valley Club, and the oranges by the Hop Brook Club. Mothers are asked to provide a present for each of their own children. Y'all have lots of fun.

With regard to the coming Christmas Season, the Sunday School will be presenting a Christmas tree trimming with "Chrismons" (Christ monograms, i.e., the symbols for Christ from the Resurrection to the present time), on the last Sunday in Advent.

Now a word about our Sunday School, which is going great guns. Twenty-five children are enrolled in three classes: Pre-School; Kindergarten and Grade I; and Grades II, III, and IV. The classes are held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. each Sunday morning, and children who do not already attend are cordially invited to do so.

Upon inquiry, Gerald Swart has informed us that the Planning Board has initiated a proposal to amend the Town By-Laws to prohibit the dumping of radioactive waste materials within its confines. This amendment was unanimously approved at a special town meeting on September 18, 1981. The amendment is now in the hands of

the Attorney General. The Planning Board also has completed work on the study of the subdivision by-laws. They were subsequently approved by the voters and by the Attorney General; consequently they are now in effect. One additional note: Tom Kazprzak of Goose Pond, a comparatively new member of our community, was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Henning Carlson on the Board. Tom is a Natural Resources Officer of the Commonwealth.

Selectman Mary Hale has informed us that "our solid waste contract with VICON in Pittsfield has been approved, enabling us now to use this facility. Under the direction of Richard Loring, the town landfill has been cleaned up and covered with gravel; containers have been installed; and we have received a clean bill of health from the State.... This year the Selectmen invited all the Town Boards, who wished, to meet on Thursday evening, thus giving persons who had to meet with one or more Committees the chance to do so on the same evening. The Planning Board agreed to do this, and so far it has worked well. We have received thanks from many people."

Shaun Murphy of the Main Road has made a study in depth of the feasibility of establishing a recycling depot at the Tyringham dump site. Shaun has attended a number of meetings in this connection, and has done quite a bit of research in this area. His fine report will be printed by the Hop Brook Community Club, and copies placed in the post office boxes of the Tyringham townspeople. Thank you, Shaun. (P.S.: Sarah Hudson also has delved into this subject of recycling.)

Alice Hale of Sunset Farm has been elected President of the Western Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association at its annual meeting in August. It seems to us that Alice has been progressing ever upward in this organization. Congratulations, Alice!

Stage and TV actor Bill Roerick has landed a good character part in the afternoon TV "soap opera," Guiding Light (3 to 4 p.m.). His role is that of a gentleman whose activities bear watching. Hope it's a long run, Bill!

In this, our penultimate paragraph, we would like to express our appreciation to Sally Bergmans of Stockbridge for the wonderful job she has done over the years in typing "Tyringham Topics" in final form. Her little decorations on the Christmas List are delightfully original. No staff member could possibly compete with Sally for neatness, accuracy, and speed. Many thanks, Sally!

Department of Utter Trivia:--From "Successful Meetings:" A well-known preacher remarked to his flock once that every blade of grass was a sermon. A week or so later he was mowing his lawn when a member of the congregation walked by. "That's the stuff, Reverend," he said. "Cut your sermons short...." From "Today's Chuckle:" Noah was our first financier--he floated a limited company when all the rest of the world was in liquidation.... In our technological world, scientists can even patent living organisms. What's next--designer genes? Oh, well.

(Julia Reber)

Youth News:--The main event for the youth this summer was the Golden Hour. It was held every Friday for five weeks. The theme centered around the Beatitudes, or "Be-Like-Jesus" Attitudes. Each week about twenty-five children came to sing songs, have crafts, and most importantly, learn about Jesus. Muffet, our big fuzzy blue muppet friend, returned to delight the children with puppet shows, which applied the week's theme to their daily lives. Barbara Van Orman, Sue Choquette, Ruth Le Compte, and Margie Slater were very helpful in running the Golden Hour. We also thank those who supplied refreshments; and all who helped in any other way.... A youth choir has been organized which is holding rehearsals each Thursday afternoon at 3:30 at

the home of Susan Choquette. All school children who enjoy singing are welcome and indeed encouraged to join. Special emphasis will be placed on music for the season of Christmastide.

(Marjorie Slater)

News from Out of Town: Mrs. Walter B. Bishop sends us a lively contribution from the "Grandmother of Susan, Judith, Katharine, and Jennifer Bishop, and the great-grandmother of Rachel Uchitel." ... Eleanor Dodge writes from Maine: Deac and I are now 75 and in good health. We are ready to move into our new solar home. Both sons now live in Gorham and Julia Dodge Korst lives in Warner, N. H., and is Guidance Counselor in Concord High School. ... Bill and Connie Dyer just completed a vacation in Florida, including a houseraft cruise on the St. John's River. They saw many varieties of wildlife in their native habitat. ... Ann Emerson reports that she, John, and Eleanor go to the Germantown Friends School every day. Andi is in the jewelry business in N.Y.C.; Alex is an operating room technician; Parker will graduate this spring from Emerson College with a degree in theatre. ... Rodman and Mellie Gilder's son David was married to Cindy Ehlers in Cardiff, California, on August 28th. He is practicing psychiatry in San Diego, and she is a neuropharmacist at the Salk Institute. ... Juel Hale is living with her daughter Joan Santonastasi in Cupertino, Cal. She sends greetings to all the "homefolks." ... Lois Olds finds life in Heritage Hills, Somers, N. Y., busy and delightful, with art tours, computer courses, and so on. She sends regards to her Tyringham friends. ... The Rev. Vesta Thompson writes: "My dear Dad passed away after a long illness and one month in the hospital. He would have been 97 on Thanksgiving Day. I keep busy with my two churches and my monthly magazine, Prophecy Update." Mrs. Thompson's address is still RFD #1, Kezar Falls, Maine 04047.

The Hop Brook Community Club:--The Club continued its July Saturday lunches, with expanded vegetable sales, and a raffle on two cheeses contributed by Barbara Leventhal Crosby. In addition, chances could be taken on Carolyn Canon's handmade quilt. We had fewer children than usual but enlarged the range of our customers, and in four Saturdays made a profit of $228.

We had our annual picnic again at Ashintully, and this time attracted a number of families who had not come before. Under the spell of the McLennans' hospitality we all talked together, and most of us made the trip up to the mansion ruins. The free-will offering amounted to $127.

A number of us helped the Church Committee with their most successful Strawberry and Harvest Suppers, and several took part in serving the Valley Club refreshments to the Hallowe'en Trick-or-Treat goblins. We are hoping to put on one or more events during the winter months which will lighten the dark, cold days.

Our October lunch was in honor of Carolyn Canon, whose handmade articles had brought over $400 to the Club. Shares taken on the quilt amounted to $225; it was won by Jan de Ruth, artist-in-residence at the Tyringham Galleries.

We continue to enjoy our monthly meetings and lunches together, and hope that others will let Judy Reber know that they would like to join us.

(Millicent McIntosh, Secretary)

CHRISTMAS 1981

Incarnation!

The supreme method of communication.
Words are needed ...
But they are far from the best method.
Words were not even enough for God ...
He made the Word flesh. (John 1:14)
And herein lies the meaning of Christmas ...
God's consummate message to the world
Was the Word ... in human likeness.

Richest blessings for a Christmas of peace.

The Rev. Richard E. O'Hara
Pastor, Union Church

And the blessings of God be also upon this Hanukkah Season.

Robert C. and Suzette Alsop
Walter, Rosa, Walt Jr. and Heidi Alward
Sheila and Kerstin Anderson
Rev. and Mrs. Charles Austin
Richard and Georgia Birkett
Mrs. Warner B. Bishop Sr.
Barbara and Norbert Bogdan
Teresa, Tricia and Rodney Bragdon
Marshall Brighenti
Bob, Mary Ann and Nicole Brown
Jean Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Brown, and Claire, Michael and Daniel
Mr. Robert Brown
The Bucher Family
Mary Burdick
Carolyn Canon
Mrs. Clifford R. Canon
In loving memory of Clifford R. Canon
Eleanor, Nort, and Jennifer Canon
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Canon and Family
Carolyn Carlson
In memory of Henning Carlson
In memory of Helen and Martin Butler
Henning, Joyce, Michael and Kimberly Carlson
Mike, Sue, Amy and Mia Carlotto
In memory of Joan E. Clark
Virginia D. Caruthers; Susan, Joseph and Conor Moran
Jim and Steve Caseley
Larry, Betty, Jeff and Randy Cernik
Don, Jeremy and Scott Cernik
Dick, Kathy and Jessica Cernik
Bob, Sue, Aubrey and Noah Choquette
Chuck, Terry, David, Jon and Kevin Clark
Duffy, Irma and Kerry Clark
Robert, Pat, Bob, Robin and Kristie Clark
Maria, Timolin and Casey Cole

Thomas Coley
Carin Revander Cosel
Mrs. Franklin L. Couch
The Bobbie Crosby Family
Agnes Curtin
John and Davena Curtin
Johnny, Sissy, Mike, Mark E. and Lori Curtin
Gene, Nancy, Kevin and Baby Gene Curtin
Mary Curtin
    In memory of Mary Fisher
Neil and Helen Curtin, Gerald, Mary, Molly and Tim
Peter, Deanna, Peter Jr., Jamie and Matty Curtin
Terry, Marilyn, Terry Jr., Kelly, Beth, and Stephen Curtin
Tommy and Maggie Curtin
Putt, Holly and Jennifer Darey
Ann and Donald Davis and Family
Norm and Ruth Day
Harry E. Dickson
Deac and Eleanor Dodge
Paul and Doreen Dodge and Tylee
Julie Korst and daughters Cecele and Heidi
Thomas Dodge, Harriet Hope Dodge, and Erhon Hope-Dodge
Jocelyn, Brian, and Meredith Dodge
Alice, John and Alison Donald
Everell L. Downs
Gerry, Donna, Gerald, Jean Marie, Christine and Patricia Drake
Robert and Ruth DuVernois
Art and Aggie Dyer
Bill and Connie Dyer
Doug and Janet Eddy
Louis and Marcia Eisenberg
Varney, Clinton, Susannah, Alex and Rosy Elliott
Jim and Bev (Dyer) Elsensohn, Eric and Heidi
Ann, John, Andi, Alex, Parker and Eleanor Emerson
Jim and Eugenie Fawcett, John, Donald, Nan and James
Eddie, Diane, Adam, Darrell and Pat Fennelly
Everett S. Fennelly
Mary Ann, Amy and Kathleen Fennelly
Everett Fennelly and Mary Beth Decker
Tom Fennelly
Dawn (Cernik) and Michael Fredette, and Robbie
Allan, Mary, and Nancy Garner
Marian Gelsleichter
George and Nini Gilder, Louisa and Mellie
Rod and Mellie Gilder, David and Cindy, Joshua
Rosamond Gilder and Francesca Palmer
Elizabeth Gilmore
    In memory of Arthur Gilmore Sr.
    In memory of Arthur Gilmore Jr.
Arnold and Alice Hale
David G. Hale
Don and Mary Hale

In loving memory of Elizabeth L. Hale
George and Jean Hale
Juel Hale
Sandy, Cathy, Suzie and Arnold Hayne
Bruce and Sue Heath and Family
Cortland and Anna Heath
Roy Heath
In loving memory of Candace Heath
Eleanor and John (Rocky) Hoag
Sarah Hudson
Ken, Berta, Kenny and Linda Jones
Allan and Martha (Birkett) Joyner, Jason and Allison
Fred and Phyllis Judd
In memory of Eloise Myers
Tom, Debbie and Keith Kasprzak
Wil, Mary D., Plum and Nick Kierstead
Grace E. Knickerbocker
George and Betty Kramer, Alice, Hawley and Charles Truax
The Kraszeski Family
Douglas and Marion Leach
Steve, Ruth, Erin, and Shannon LeCompte
Eugene and Lucca Lehner, Andreas, Mary, Adam and Sven
Jane Leventhal
Bruce R. Logan
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Logan
Beatrice Loring
Benjamin A. Loring Sr., Roberta Loring, Benny, Robin and Kelly
Dot and Dick Loring; Deby (Loring) and Charles Hunt and Family; Rickie Loring and Jenny; Eddie Loring
Joe, Ev, Joe Jr., and Rodney Loring
Nellie W. and James E. Loring, Evelyn, Jennifer R., and James R. Loring; Karen and Robert Yeager
Olive Loring
Russ and Margaret Loring
Tunk, Dede, Elaine, Chuck and Tony Loring
W. Merritt and Marylou McBrian
Mr. and Mrs. C. T. McCarthy
Mr. C. Douglas McCarthy
Rusty and Millicent McIntosh; Jim, Carey, Sue, Ken and Dick
Katharine and John McLennan and Family
The A. Amasa Miller Family: Ted, Helena, Rodman, Katherine, Gabe, Max, Judy, Steve, Tess, Ginny and Molly
Anne and Chris Moffett, Jonathan, Sam and Sarah
Polly and Ray Montgomery
Mrs. Marie S. Moore
Grace D. Morin
James and Ruth Morse and Family
The Moskin Family
Shaun and Holly Murphy, Eamonn and Niall
Dr. and Mrs. Theodore A. Nelson; Theodora J. Nelson
Dick, Marilyn, Joshua and Jesse O'Hara
Lois C. Olds

Gilder, Anne and Reese Palmer
The Palmers at Hickory Farm
Hylie and John Pappenheimer, William, Ros and Richard
Edward N. Perkins
Ned and Petey Perkins; Louie and Hobb; Neddy and Cathy; Jamie and Liz and Luke; David; Kate
Jesse Pierce
In memory of Helen Butler
Mr. and Mrs. Phillips Pursell
Viggo and Catha, Kristin, Martin, Edwin and Lucia Rambusch
Freddie, Tootie, Martha, Jim and Sarah Read
Judy and Peggy Reber
Margaret and Susan Rector
Guy I. and Martha D. Robb
William Roerick
Annette Rudd
The Santonastasis--Joan, Ronnie, Chris and Elizabeth
Eugene, Ina, Eric, Vicki and Nancy Schnell
Leonard, Henriette and Andrew Schwartz
Charlie, Liz, Marge and Sam Slater
Chuck, Alice, April and Ryan Slater
Grace Slater
Mary and Gene Smith
Norman and Pat Soules, and Patty Ann
Liz Spencer
Tom, Helen, Mark and Laura Stephens
Jo B. Stott
Gerald and Ruth Swart, Reed and Sally
Alice S. Thain
Blanche and Bill Thober
Rev. Vesta Thompson
Marguerite Tiffany
Mr. and Mrs. Asher E. Treat
Alethea Rudd Truax
Helen and Eddie Twing
Brian and Sidney Urquhart, Rachel and Charles; Thomas Canfield
Gordon, Kate and Barbara Van Orman
Barbara and Deric Washburn, Jennifer and Stefanie
Louis T. and Cecele A. Weitzman; Dr. Elliot D. and Muriel Weitzman; Dr. Arthur J. Weitzman
Emily B. Welch
Marion, Joe, Den and Ken Whalen
Joe and Darleen Wilkinson and Children
Bert, Karen, Keith, Timmy and Chad Williams
Evelyn Winters
In memory of Michael Winters
Lillian, Michael, James, Troy, Patrick and Melissa Winters
In memory of Kenneth (Red) Winters

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

SPRING AND SUMMER 1982

REPORTERS: Julia Reber, Millicent McIntosh, Elizabeth Spencer

At last--Spring!--with its hope and promise. Gone the interminable snow, the gale-like winds, the treacherous sleet. Since we are only a New Englander by adoption, being essentially Temperate Zone oriented, the long, drawn-out Winter was particularly confining. Just as we strike our best martyr attitude, some Old Timer comes along and sniffs, "Last winter wasn't anything at all! You should have been here in ----!" With April melting into May, however, and May leaping into June, the valley is green again; Hop Brook flows free on its meandering course to the Housatonic; flowers gladden the eye; and the drone of the lawnmower is again heard in the land. Jumping back to Winter Past, we would like to thank the Tyringham road crew (Dick Loring, Bruce Logan and Charles Loring, Jr.) for the splendid work they performed in keeping our roads free of snow. "In snow and sleet and gloom of night" they persevered on behalf of the safety of the townspeople. Thank you, men.

Births and Baptisms:--To Robert and Mary Ann (Nackoul) Brown, a daughter Alexis Ann, on January 21, 1982. The maternal grandparents are Alex and Gene Nackoul of Whittier, Calif., and the paternal grandmother is Florence Brown, of Monterey. The young lady was baptized on April 4th by the Rev. Richard E. O'Hara in the Tyringham Union Church.

Deaths:--Edwin M. Loring of Lee, brother of Fred Loring of the Main Road, died at 80 after a short illness. To Fred and the Loring family we tender our sincere sympathy.....Mrs. Alex Williamson of Stockbridge, mother of Deanna Curtin and Maggie Curtin of the Tyringham Main Road, died December 9, 1981, at her home. To Deanna and Maggie and family members, we extend our sincere condolence.....A selectman for 16 years, and former town police chief, Robert K. Clark died at his home on December 11, 1981, after a long illness. In his years of service to the town, Bob was a member of the Tyringham Volunteer Fire Department, chairman of the Berkshire County Selectmen's Association and of the Tyringham Landowners' Association. Our deep sympathy to all his family.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--Mrs. Sheila Anderson of Church Road, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Henrion of Lincoln, Nebr., was married to Mr. James Caseley of Sanford, Maine, on February 14, 1982, in the Union Church in Tyringham.* ~~Rev. Richard E. O'Hara~~ officiated at the ceremony. Rev. Robt Kyte of Ch. on the Hill Lenox, Mass

All Around the Town:--By vote of the congregation, the following Union Church Committee members and officers were elected on January 13, 1982: Moderator, Charles Slater; Clerk, Millicent McIntosh; Treasurer, Elizabeth Slater; Deacon, Robert Choquette; Deaconess, Georgia Birkett; Member-at-Large, Julia Reber; Auditor, Rustin McIntosh; Trustee, Kenneth Jones; Finance Committee, F. William Thober; Sunday School Superintendent, Rev. Richard E. O'Hara.

On May 17, 1982, the following luminaries were elected to town offices: Moderator, Charles E. Slater Sr.; Selectman, Peter L. Curtin; Cemetery Trustee, Edward S. Fennelly; Tax Collector, Betty Jean Cernik; Library Trustee, Mary C. Garner; Assessor, Steven G. Baluk; Auditor (vacant); Planning Board, Charles E. Slater Jr.; School Committee, Janice Curtin; Park Commissioner, Peter J. Eberth; Planning Board, Barbara Adams.

Liz Fullemann, president of the Valley Club, has asked us to print the following with regard to the background and aims of the club, which we happily do: "The Tyringham Valley Club was started by local women, mainly young mothers, who wanted to meet once a month on a social basis. Over the years career and family concerns have made our schedules even more complicated, but we still look forward to our monthly meetings as the one chance many of us have to see each other. Although the purpose of the club is mostly social, we raise money for community projects, such as picnic tables and floats for the swimming pool, which are not covered by other organizations. We also sponsor flower collections for bereaved families in town, and plant flowers at the monument for Memorial Day. Any community members who would like to meet with us are welcome." Other club officers are: Barbara Adams, Vice President; Betty Cernik, Treasurer; and Holly Murphy, Secretary.

Energetic Alice Hale of Sunset Farm has been honored with a Seal for serving 22 years as leader of the Tyr-Lee Roughriders, a 4-H club whose members are involved in horseback riding and other projects. Right on, Alice!

In March former Fire Chief Joseph Whalen was honored for eight years of dedicated service by the Tyringham Volunteer Fire Company at a dinner dance at the East Lee Steak House. Joe built the organization's membership from 15 in 1973 to 88 in 1981. He will continue as a member of the fire company. Currently, James J. Curtin is the town's fire chief. (P.S.: On April 25th the firemen and their helpers cleaned up the town's roadsides, thereby removing the winter's accumulation of tin and paper eyesores.)

Deemed economically unfeasible, the School Committee in March 1982 turned over to the Selectmen the school building on Church Road. The Tyringham Historical Commission is intensely interested in the future of our 1876 schoolhouse. Let's hope that in some way, and funds permitting, the building can be maintained as an example of a village schoolhouse of a century and more ago.

Selectman Mary Hale tells us that Mrs. John Fitzpatrick, co-owner of Country Curtains and the Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, has presented us with insulated curtains for use on the first floor of our Town Hall. This generous gift is one that is greatly appreciated--especially since it is conducive to the saving of oil. Many thanks, Jane Fitzpatrick!

Summer resident Viggo Rambusch of the Rambusch Studio of New York City has been awarded the contract to restore the 1882 Tiffany window in the First Church of Christ, Congregational, in Pittsfield. Viggo has also obtained the contract for restoration of the LaFarge window in St. Paul's Church, Stockbridge. The fame of Rambusch craftsmanship grows apace.

On December 18, 1981 at a special meeting, town residents voted to transfer one-half acre of land--northwest of the fire station, between Hop Brook and the Main Road--for the sum of one dollar. This is the site of the former Rake Factory. At some future time the fire company will erect a building on this site which will accommodate some of the equipment which now crowds the firehouse. Another part of this building will be reserved for the fire company's fund-raising affairs, such as the Steak Roast and Bierfest. If, at some future time, the fire company is disbanded, or if it does not make use of the land, the property will revert to the town.

At a second meeting of the town voters on April 14, 1982, the remaining 1.3 acres--on the far side of Hop Brook--were deeded to the fire company for one dollar. This transfer eliminates the necessity for the fire company's surveying the first parcel of land, which would have cost in the neighborhood of $1,800 to $2,000 to accomplish.

Deric Washburn of Webster Road, is one of three screenwriters given credit for the new film, "The Border," starring Jack Nicholson. Deric did the screenplays for "The Deer Hunter" and "Silent Running." He is now in California working on another screenplay and--off and on--taking time off to write a novel.

Actors All: Bobby Clark, son of Patricia and the late Bob Clark, had the leading role of "Curley" in Berkshire Community College's recent production of "Oklahoma!".....Last month the Lee High School presented "Little Mary Sunshine," roles in which comedy were played by Jennifer Darey, daughter of Francis and Holly Darey, and Randy Cernik, son of Larry and Betty Cernik.....Bill Roërick of "Lost Farm" has just been elected to the Board of Directors of the Berkshire Theatre Festival. He tells us that he was an apprentice at the BTF (then the Berkshire Playhouse) in 1935, at which time he lived with Robert Rudd on Fernside. Since then he has appeared in 50 plays at this theater. Quite a record!

The Younger Set:--The following lasses have graduated from the Lee High School: Robin Clark, daughter of Patricia and the late Bob Clark; Katy Curtin, daughter of Jimmy and Kathy Curtin; Kelly Curtin, daughter of Terry and Marilyn Curtin; and Jennifer Darey, daughter of Francis and Holly Darey. Robin and Jennifer are the recipients of the annual scholarship awards of the Hop Brook Community Club. Robin will continue her studies at Berkshire Community College; and Jennifer, accepted for early decision by Bay Path Junior College, will be pondering the intricacies of paralegalism.....Rosy Elliott, daughter of Clint and Varney Elliott, has graduated from Andover Academy, and will enter Barnard College in the fall.....Cornelius (Plum) Rudd Kierstead, son of summer residents Wilson and Mary D. Kierstead, graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy and will enter Wesleyan this fall.....Kristin Rambusch, daughter of summer sojourners Viggo and Catha Rambusch, graduated from Beloit (Wisc.) College. She now will embark on a postgraduate course which will enable her to work in highly specialized nursing techniques.....Sam Slater, son of Charlie and Elizabeth Slater, was named to the Dean's List at the State University of New York Agricultural and Technical College at Cobleskill for the 1981 term.

Sue Choquette tells us that the Golden Hour will begin on Friday, July 9th, at 10 in the morning and will last until 12 noon. Children three years old up to those in 8th grade are cordially invited--assuming there will be enough applicants from the junior high group. Sue says the services of volunteer workers will be gratefully accepted.

Our minister, Mr. O'Hara, informs us, with pardonable pride, that there were more children than ever in Sunday School attendance in the 1981-82 season--and also more teachers. He anticipates even more children next year, in addition to a

class for the older children. He also expects the Adult Class to increase in number from the present ten. Ever onward and upward, Dick.

Under the auspices of the Church Committee, those two terrific workers, Maggie Curtin and Mary Ann Fennelly--together with their battalion of able helpers (including one member of the cloth)--organized a meatball and spaghetti supper. Funds realized from this affair will be used to replenish some kitchen supplies, and will help in the purchase of material to recover a certain number of faded and worn pew cushions in the sanctuary.

Department of Utter Trivia:--Sign on a bookstore window going out of business: "Words failed us" (from "Today's Chuckle").....Classified ad: "Baby sitting, $1.25 an hour if I mind the kid. If the kid minds me, $1.00 a hour" (from Successful Meetings).....Postcard from patient to psychiatrist: "Having a wonderful time. Why?" (from Modern Maturity).

(Julia Reber)

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB

As was mentioned in the Christmas Topics, the response to our increase in contribution was very generous. As a result, we were able to add $409 to our scholarship fund, and to give the two scholarships reported elsewhere in this issue. We feel very proud of our three former scholars, and most hopeful about the future of our two new ones.

The Club met monthly except in April, but we decided not to undertake a winter event because of the severe weather. On April 3rd, however, we sponsored a talk by James N. Parrish, Historic Preservation Planner for the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, "Greek Revival Buildings in Berkshire County." Although we were saluted with a downpour in the afternoon and evening, we had a big audience and received a free will offering for repairing the Church steeple of $550.

We expect to pick the strawberries for the Church Strawberry Supper the end of June, and to continue our Saturday lunches in July. In connection with these we are planning a sale of children's books.

We greatly enjoy our meetings and lunches together, and hope that anyone who can be free on third Tuesday mornings, and would like to join us, will call Judy Reber (243-1822).

(Millicent McIntosh, Secretary)

ARNOLD HALE

We live in a "mobile society." Young people starting careers take it for granted that they will spend two years in one city, four in another as they climb the corporate ladder. Whatever the profession, people go where the jobs are. Vice President and Mrs. George Bush are living in the 29th house in the 17th city that has been "home" during their 37-year marriage--and there will be at least one more. Retired people, as often as not, succumb to the lure of the Sun Belt. Little wonder all those moving vans roam the country's highways.

Not a one has contained the possessions of Arnold Hale of Sunset Farm. He represents another breed, one that cherishes deep and well nourished roots. Adapt to changing times and technologies, yes. But move--why?

His great, great-grandfather, Thomas Hale, came from England as one of New England's first settlers.* In 1724 Thomas's son William was born in Enfield, Connecticut, and 23 years later came to Tyringham and built the center chimney saltbox style house which still stands (although altered) on Art School Road in what is now Monterey. William's son George was born in Grace Slater's house. Arnold Hale is the son of George's son Clarence. George had two brothers, Charles and John, and it is John's place that the family still farms. (The Charles Hale farmhouse is now the Rambusches.)

Arnold Hale was born 80 years ago in the house he still lives in which was bought in 1861 by his great-uncle John. Down through the years as many as five generations have lived there together. In the mid-19th century families only kept enough cows for their own use. It wasn't until Arnold was about 15 years old that the place became a commercial dairy farm. Before that the Hales had raised oxen, some of which were bartered, others sold to such places as the Lee marble quarry. In the late 19th century tobacco for cigars was a big Tyringham crop--the big Hale barn was built in 1891 for the tobacco leaves that hung in it--but the Hales quit that business in 1904 when Arnold's father Clarence fell hanging tobacco leaves and was seriously hurt.

After attending the nine grades then operating in the Tyringham Center School, Arnold Hale entered the Lee High School. He became something of a private school bus driver. Rising at 5:30 a.m. he would milk a half dozen cows (the farm's herd then numbered about 20 milking). He had a deal with the hired man who didn't like to milk. If Arnold milked for Giles Gilmore, Giles would get the horse hitched to the wagon (or sleigh when there was snow) and ready for the trip to Lee. By 8 a.m. he picked up his lunch box and was ready to start off with four or five other Tyringham high school students in his "bus." In winter, the horse often white with frost, his rig and others "broke" the roads. It took an hour for Arnold to get to school. He first left his passengers at the foot of the hill to the high school (now the grammar school), then took the horse and wagon to the livery stable (where Dresser-Hull now is) and walked to school from there.

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*The family is not related to Nathan Hale.

The school day then was 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and it was dark by the time he returned home. There was the afternoon milking to be done, wood to be brought in the house, supper and homework before bedtime.

Sunset Farm became a full-fledged dairy farm about 1915. It still holds membership number one in the Massachusetts Dairy Herd Improvement Association. By the time Arnold finished his second year of high school, the U. S. had entered World War I. "I was never too good at school," he admits, "and when they started talking about French and that sort of thing, I'd had it." His grandfather was sick and thanks to the war there was no hired help. He was needed on the farm and it was where he wanted to be. By the 1920s Arnold had married a Tyringham girl, Elizabeth Loring, and the farm had its first tractor, a Ford. "We worked harder to get it started than it was worth," he remembers. But it had its uses for more than dairying, since his father had started truck gardening and was supplying the Greenock Inn in Lee and several area stores with produce.

In the 1930s the farm expanded again. With about 100 calves and heifers (about 60 milking), and milk from smaller farms, Sunset Farm began a milk route and sold about 1,000 quarts a day retail and wholesale. For 25 years the family operated the dairy farm and also sold the product directly. But when the trucks were expected to stock such things as orange drink and chocolate milk, and when help became harder to find, the Hales could no longer be in both businesses. It was decided to keep the more profitable dairy business and the route was sold to Crescent Creamery.

The farm's most recent business brings the family full circle, in effect. For it was in Tyringham that the Stockbridge Indians taught the white men to make maple syrup. We don't know whether or not any early Hales participated. But we do know that sugaring thrives in Tyringham now, uninhibited by sentimental attachment to old-fashioned ways. It is right up to date, complete with gravity flow where feasible, a tank truck, and an oil-fired sap house. What started about ten years ago as a "hobby" is now a full-blown business. A record 1,300 gallons of syrup was produced in 1981, 1,100 in 1982.

Arnold Hale has done his share for Tyringham. His years as a selectman total 19, his service on the school committee 12. He now holds the time honored New England post of fence viewer. Arnold Hale never considered a life other than farming or a place other than Tyringham. "Right up to now," he says, "I've never regretted what I did."

--Elizabeth Spencer

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

AUTUMN AND WINTER 1982

REPORTERS: JULIA REBER - MILLICENT MCINTOSH - MARJORIE SLATER

In the fullness of time it came to pass that the steeple on our 138-year-old Greek Revival Church fell upon evil days. From time to time, bits of scroll-work and other ornamental pieces from the steeple fell to the ground, because of high winds or disintegration due to age. Fortunately, no one was brained in the process. However, rather than tempting Providence further, it was decided to take immediate steps towards the steeple's restoration. Inasmuch as all issues of TOPICS are kept in the Tyringham Library, we deemed it a good idea to record the restoration steps involved, including a list of those businesses employed in the work, for a quick referral, if need be, at some future time.

The first estimate rendered the Church Committee was $14,000. Alas, it was not the last. Due to a great deal of extra work--not discernable upon first inspection--the final bill (not yet received), will be somewhere between $26,000 and $27,000. At first it was thought that the only thing which had to be done was to replace the steeple roof and repair the decorative scrolls, with some minor work on the lower steeple roofs. However, when the steeple was dismantled, it was found that not only were certain structural elements damaged, but others were entirely missing. All had to be either repaired or replaced. All three roofs on the three-tiered steeple were replaced with lead-coated copper roofing. New sheathing over two thirds of the steeple area was required to cover leaking and damaged surfaces. The whole steeple was reflashed, scraped, primed, and painted. Ronald Nickerson was the general contractor. Those of his employees who worked on the steeple are as follows: Everett Fennelly (of Tyringham) / Peter DiGrigoli / Dick Palmer / John Nickerson / John Coty / Pat Hickey. Three subcontractors performed the following categories of work: C. M. Goodrich & Sons--decorative wood carving and scroll-work; D. J. Wooliver & Sons, Inc.--metal copper flashing and roofing; Bart B. Casey of Lenox--painting contractor. The Albany Ladder Company assembled the staging. Norman G. A. Day (former Tyringhamite, but now of Lenox) was architectural consultant, and Robert C. Brown of Tyringham assisted Ron with engineering problems; their services were gratuitously donated. Begun in early September, completion of the work took two months, almost to the day.

Let's hope that our beautiful church, with its newly face-lifted steeple, will endure for another 138 years! In the meantime . . .

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Births and Christenings:--There was no increase in the town's population (by birth) in the past half year. The christening of Alexis Ann Brown, daughter of Mary Ann and Robert Brown, took place on April 4, 1982, in the Tyringham Union Church, with the Rev. Richard O'Hara officiating.

Deaths:--Mrs. Doreen Tyrell Salzmann, wife of Dr. J. A. Salzmann of Webster Road, died on September 14, 1981, in New York City. She was the daughter of John and Mary Tyrell of Acklow, Ireland, the site of her burial. Our deepest sympathy to Dr. Salzmann.... Summer resident Mrs. Anita Damrosch Littell died on June 17, 1982, after a long illness. The funeral service, in the Tyringham Union Church, was conducted by family members. We convey our sincere sympathy to the Littell family.... John Barhydt, formerly of Tyringham, died in Maitland, Fla. on August 16, 1982. John and his wife Babbie ran Orchard House as an inn from 1948 to 1958. To Babbie and her family we extend our deep sympathy.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--The marriage of Penelope Diane Borax, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Borax of Houston, Texas, and John Dustin Donald, of Tyringham and Alpine, Calif., son of summer resident Mrs. John K. and the late Mr. Donald, took place in San Diego on August 6, 1982.... On August 8, 1982, Catherine Ezell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ezell of Wheeling, W. Va., was wed to Arthur Joshua Weitzmann, son of summer residents Mr. and Mrs. Louis Isaac Weitzmann of Webster Road. The ceremony took place on the grounds of the Weitzmann home here.... Linda Maureen Snyder, daughter of Millard and the late Nellie Card Snyder, of Pine Plains, N. Y., was married to Richard Carl Butler, son of Carl and Diane Birkett Butler, of Pine Plains, in which town the ceremony took place on September 11, 1982, at the Methodist Church. Grandparents of the groom are Richard and Georgia Birkett of Tyringham.

All Around the Town:--Marcia Eisenberg, Genealogist and member of the Tyringham Historical Commission, has made a typed transcription of every available Tyringham Church record, beginning with 1750, with an every-name index to the records. This includes the records of the Baptist, Methodist, Congregational, and United Churches. We owe Marcia a genuine vote of thanks, since the work involved over 400 pages of material, and took more than two years to complete. A real labor of love.

A Sin of Omission--or, Insult Added to Injury: In this case the Insult was that we omitted the name of Jeff Cernik from our list of college graduates in the summer issue of TOPICS; and the Injury was the broken leg which Jeff sustained three days before he was to receive his diploma from Herkimer County (N. Y.) Community College. A modern Job, no less. We apologize for our oversight, and would point out that Jeff is now happily employed as an announcer at Radio Station WSBS in Great Barrington.

Nini Gilder has asked us to report the following: There is a weekly Play Group for children in the infant class up to Kindergarten, who meet to romp and frolic each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. The play periods are held at the various children's homes. Mothers (and grandmothers, too!) please note. All are welcome.

A Duo of Retirees: Stetson Adams of the Main Road retired in September after 32 years of service with the State Division of Forests and Parks. Summer resident Eugene Lehner of Jerusalem Road has retired as violist from the Boston Symphony Orchestra after 43 years. He joined the BSO in 1939 after a brilliant career in Europe. These two gentlemen will probably find themselves busier than ever in their "retirement." 'Twas ever thus.

In furtherance of the building which the Tyringham Fire Company proposes to erect on the site of the old rake factory, we report the following: The company received a permit to build from Building Inspector Edward M. Briggs of Lee. However,

approval is also required by the Tyringham Conservation Commission, since the facility will be located in a wetlands area about 15 feet from Hop Brook. At a meeting early in September, the Commission approved plans for the building, since it will not use any water or sewage facilities. The structure will measure 32 feet by 120 feet--the longer side paralleling Main Road. A decided plus is the fact that James D. Gralla, director of vocational education at the Lee High School, has offered the free services of 26 students in the building class for erection of the outer shell. The work will be done under the supervision of Mr. Gralla. The firemen themselves will put on the roof, complete the interior of the building, and put the finishing touches on grading, and planting of trees and shrubbery.

Since we last reported on Church suppers, three more have taken place--the Strawberry Festival (ham), and the chicken and turkey suppers--under the able direction of Maggie Curtin and Mary Ann Fennelly, and their hard-working co-workers. Maggie opines that the suppers were all financial successes, thanks to the donations and participation of the townspeople. We would particularly like to praise the Harvest Festival supper (turkey) in October. It was gastronomically superb. Right on, Maggie, Mary Ann & Co.!

The ladies of the town (plus two gentlemen!) donated delectable home-baked bread, cakes, pies, cookies and buns for a Bake Sale held at the Price Chopper in Lee on November 20, with Maggie Curtin and Sissy Curtin in charge. It was a great success, and was for the benefit of the church steeple's restoration. But of course.

We chanced to meet Lizabeth Fullemann, President of the Valley Club, on the broad highway, and asked if she wanted anything placed in TOPICS. She replied she did not, but extended a "Merry Christmas!" to everyone from the V. C. Thanks, madam president.

Stage and TV actress Virginia Dwyer (Caruthers) of Webster Road played the part of Anna Bahlmann, companion to Edith Wharton, in a performance entitled "Edith Wharton--An Intimate Portrait," at The Mount in Lenox last summer. With Kristin Linklater (of Shakespeare & Co.) portraying the role of Mrs. Wharton, the audience enjoyed an hour of beautifully professional and sensitive acting, and the evocation of an era that is gone forever.

On the heels of a decision by the State Board of Fisheries and Wildlife to lengthen the deer-hunting season from 6 to 9 days, and to increase the bag limit from one to two deer, a meeting was held on September 20, 1982, by the Tyringham Landowners' Association. At this meeting the landowners rejected the edict of the SBFW, resolving to adhere to the traditional one-deer, six-day period. They feel they have no desire to deviate from the principles of their charter, which is dedicated to the "preserving of the rural character of Tyringham, particularly on the proper use of private lands for the purposes of hunting, fishing and hiking." So be it.

An Odyssey on Two Wheels. Monday, July 12, may have been just another day for most of us, but for Reese Palmer, younger son of Anne and Gillie Palmer, it was the start of a bicycle trip that would take him 4,750 miles across the American continent to the West Coast. Reese zigzagged across the country in order to avoid the deserts. Arriving in Oregon he spent one week pedalling along the coast to San Francisco, from which city he flew home. According to Reese the Oregon coastline into California is supremely beautiful. Another memorable highlight was the Rocky Mountain National Park, wherein is located Trail Ridge, which is the highest road in the country at 11,900 feet. We inquired how his trusty bike had held up during this gruelling journey, and Reese said he'd had two flats and had to replace the back tire three times. What a never-to-be-forgotten adventure! Congratulations, Reese.

Tyringham's Annual Report for 1981, dedicated to late Selectman Robert K. Clark, was awarded first prize in its population category (under 1,000) by the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Annual Report Contest. The publication was the work of Peter and Joyce Eberth of the Main Road, owners of Visual Arts, Inc., in Lee. The sketch of our schoolhouse on the cover, the layout and other art work, was done by Peter, and the typing was the work of Joyce--both highly professional jobs, and a fine tribute to Bob Clark.

Between October 19 and November 2, Toodie Alsop of the Main Road had a showing of her paintings at the Welles Gallery in the Lenox Library. The exhibit was delightful, and Toodie's paintings comprised landscapes, still life, and figures, in gouache and pastel.

Jennifer Bishop, daughter of Katharine McLennan of Ashintully Farm (and granddaughter of Gladys Bishop of Lakewood, Ohio), is being given an exhibition of her photographs in Clem Kalischer's Gallery in Stockbridge in January.

Jonathan Brown of Princeton, N. J., son of Jean Browh of the Main Road, was one of the organizers of the El Greco Exhibition at the National Gallery in Washington, D. C. The exhibition was between July 2 and September 6, during which time 400,000 persons visited it. The paintings were brought to this country from the Prado in Madrid, Spain, and the exhibition was under the "High Patronage of His Majesty Juan Carlos of Spain and President Ronald Reagan." Jonathan was responsible for the two catalogue essays, "El Greco, the Man and the Myth," and "El Greco and Toledo." A signal honor.

George and Nini Gilder have added an octagonal wing to their original old red farmhouse on the Main Road. The object of much interest and curiosity, this structure took from May to November to complete. Beaver Builders were the contractors.

In addition to the Gilder Octagon, two new houses have been built for Stephen and Sue Hale and Chris and Roy Bienvenue, respectively. Situated on the Main Road, they are built in the traditional colonial style on a portion of the Hale Farm. Together with Sunset Farm and the house of Donny and Mary Hale, they form a sort of "Hale Compound." (P.S. Mary Hale has been elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Berkshire County Selectmen's Association. Mary is the town's Chief Selectman, and is to be congratulated on being elected to this new office.)

Sissy Curtain has asked us to impart the following information: The Children's Christmas Program will be held at 7 p.m. in the town hall on Friday, December 17. Parents are asked to bring gifts to be given to their own children by the old white-whiskered gentleman in the red suit.

The Tyringham Ladies' Auxiliary has elected the following officers: Sissy Curtin, President; Kathy Curtin, Vice President; Dianne Fennelly, Treasurer; and Joyce Carlson, Secretary. The emergency program will be in effect again this year. In case of any severe snowstorms or power outages, the firehouse will be equipped with food and heat. The emergency phone numbers for this year are: Sissy Curtin (243-2999); Terry Clark (243-2972); Sue Choquette (243-3645). (This is indeed an excellent and forward-looking project for the firemen and their ladies to undertake."

Bulletin:--As of this writing, the Rev. Richard E. O'Hara has not yet bagged "his" deer with bow and arrow. Can it be that Dick's aim is not of the best, or has he just too much compassion for those wild, fleet-footed ruminants?

--JULIA REBER

CHRISTMAS 1982

In our home we are fond of candles. In fact, a day seldom goes by that we do not use candles as we have our evening meal. On a night when the electricity is working they sometimes seem a poor source of light, but when the power is off...the solitary light of the candle is what keeps us from stumbling and falling as we move from one room to another.

Christmas is traditionally a time for candles as well. But how different is the lighting of the Christmas candle. Here we symbolize light which began in Bethlehem, and which spreads out through all the earth. That which began as a solitary light 2000 years ago has become a light which has affected every man. Today, as in all ages, our world is in need of light to brighten its ways. Many Christian people, each of them shining in their own way, help to spread this light that Jesus gives to the whole world. Some are candles of hope, needed to encourage others. Others are candles of joy, who bring a warm glow of shared pleasures and good fellowship. Still others are candles of peace and love who enrich every life and make living more worthwhile. Every candle is important, for when any is missing some part of our world is darker as a result. Let us remember that it was Jesus who said, "Let your light so shine that men may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Mt 5:16)

May God, the author of Christmas, be with you in this most holy season as you share His light with others.

--The Rev. Richard E. O'Hara
Pastor, Union Church

And the blessings of God be also upon this Hanukkah Season.

Mebbie Barhydt Allen, Richie and family
Reese and Lee Alsop, Jane and Penn Alsop; Anne Gardiner; Brooke Boland; Elise Wood
Walt, Rosa, Walt, Sr. and Heidi Alward
Rev. and Mrs. Charles Austin
Babbie Barhydt
The Bienvenues: Roy, Chris, D. C. and R. C.
Richard and Georgia Birkett
Mrs. Gladys B. Bishop (grandmother of Jennifer)
Barbara and Norbert Bogdan
Teresa, Tricia, and Rodney Bragdon
In memory of Robert (Butch) Bragdon
Marshall Brighenti
Bob, Mary Ann, Nicole and Alexis Brown
Jean Brown
Jonathan Brown family
Robert Brown
The Bucher Family
Doris Cabral - Edward Zimmerman
Carolyn G. Canon
Eleanor, Nort and Jennifer Canon
Carolyn C. Carlson
In memory of Henning M. Carlson
In memory of Mrs. Martin L. Butler
In memory of Thelma Carlson
Henning, Joyce, Michael and Kimberly Carlson
Virginia Caruthers; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moran and Conor
Jim and Sheila Caseley, Kerstin Anderson and Steve Caseley

Larry, Betty, Jeff and Randy Cernik
Richard and Jessica Cernik
Donald, Jeremy and Scott Cernik
Bob, Sue, Aubrey and Noah Choquette
Harvey and Dot Choquette
Chuck, Terry, David, Jon and Kevin Clark
Pat, Robin and Kristie Clark
Thomas Coley
Mr. and Mrs. J. Player Crosby and family
Mrs. Franklin Couch
Jim, Kathy, Jimi, Denise, and Katy Curtin
John and Davena Curtin
Johnny, Sissy, Mikey, Mark and Lori Curtin
Mary Curtin and sons, Carl and Eugene, and their families
Neil, Helen, Mary, Jerry, Tim and Molly Curtin
Tommy and Maggie Curtin
Holly, Putt, and Jennifer Darey
Ann and Donald Davis and family
Harry Ellis Dickson and family
Therese and Tom Dillon
Alice and Alison Donald
John Donald and Penelope Borax
Everel L. Downs
Ceylon A. Downs
Gerry, Donna, Gerald, Jean Marie, Christine and Patricia Drake
Governor Michael and Kitty Dukakis
Robert, Josiane and Michael DuVernois
Robert and Ruth DuVernois and son James
Art and Aggie Dyer
Bill and Connie Dyer
Dr. and Mrs. Louis Eisenberg
Varney and Clint Elliott, Susannah, Alex, and Rosy
Jim and Bev (Dyer) Elsensohn, Eric and Heidi
Ann, John, Andi, Alex, Parker, and Eleanor Emerson
Jim and Eugenie Fawcett, John, Donald, Nan and James
Bill, Marilyn, Parker, and Catherine Fennelly
Eddie, Dianne, Adam, Darrell and Patty Fennelly
Mary Ann, Amy, and Kathy Fennelly
Jerry Floyd Fenton
Cecile Ford
Keith Frank
Lt. Michael and Dawn Fredette
Lizbeth Fullemann
Marian Gelsleichter
George and Nini Gilder, Louisa and Mellie
Rodman, Mellie, and Joshua Gilder
Elizabeth Gilmore
In memory of Arthur Gilmore Sr.
In memory of Arthur Gilmore Jr.
Arnold B. Hale, Alice M. Hale
Don and Mary Hale
In memory of Elizabeth L. Hale
Juel Hale
Charles and Judith Hauer
Sandy and Arnold, Cathy and Suzie Hayne
Cortland and Anna Heath - William Kickery, grandson

Roy Heath
In loving memory of Candace Heath
El and John (Rocky) Hoag
John W. Holloway and Lucy C. Holloway
Sarah Hudson
Ken, Berta, Kenny and Linda Jones
Al, Martha, Jason and Allison Joyner
Fred and Phyllis Judd
In memory of Eloise Myers
In memory of Beulah Cannon
Tom, Debbie and Keith Kasprzak
Grace E. Knickerbocker
Lucyan and Lois Kraszeski, Jon, Alan and Nancy
Doug and Marion Leach
Steven, Ruth, Erin and Shannon LeCompte
Eugene and Lucca Lehner, Andreas, Mary, Adam, and Sven
Bruce R. Logan
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Logan
Mrs. Beatrice Loring
Margaret and Russell Loring
Olive Loring
Tunk, Dede, Elaine, Chuck and Tony Loring
Merritt and Marylou McBrian
Rusty and Millicent McIntosh; Jim, Carey, Sue, Ken and Dick
John and Katharine McLennan and family
Ted and Helena Miller and families
Anne and Chris Moffett, Jonathan, Sam and Sarah
Ray and Polly Montgomery
Grace A. Morin
Mr. and Mrs. James Morse and family
The Moskin family
In memory of Paula Mattlin
Shaun, Holly, Eamonn and Niall Murphy
Dr. Theodore Nelson and Jeanne R. Nelson; Miss Theodora J. Nelson
Dick, Marilyn, Joshua and Jesse O'Hara
Lois Clapp Olds
Gilder, Anne and Reese Palmer
Helena, Tonio and Kay Palmer
Mrs. Walter W. Palmer and Miss Rosamond Gilder
Walter and Spring Palmer
Edward N. Perkins
Ned and Petey Perkins and their family
Jesse Pierce
In memory of Helen Butler
Mr. and Mrs. Phillips W. Pursell
Viggo and Catha, Kristin, Martin, Edwin and Lucia Rambusch
Judy and Peggy Reber
Margaret and Susan Rector
Carin Revander
Edward and Dorothea Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Guy I. Robb
William Roerick
Annette Rudd
Mr. and Mrs. Morton Saks
The Santonastasis--Joan, Ronnie, Chris and Elizabeth

Caryn I. Schulz (Fenton)
Leonard, Henriette and Andrew Schwartz
Grace Slater
Charlie and Liz Slater, Margie and Sam
Mary and Gene Smith and family
Norman and Pat Soules
Liz Spencer
Tom and Helen Stephens, Mark and Laura
Jo Stott
Ruth and Gerald Swart
Alice S. Thain
Blanche and Bill Thober
Rev. Vesta Thompson
Marguerite Tiffany
Mr. and Mrs. Asher E. Treat
Jerry, Toni and Nancy Twing
Brian, Sidney, Rachel and Charlie Urquhart;
Thomas Canfield
Gordon, Kate and Barbara Van Orman
Barbara and Deric Washburn, Jennifer and Stephanie
Emily B. Welch
Marion, Joe and Denny Whalen
Joe and Darleen Wilkinson and children
Bert, Karen, Keith, Timmy and Chad Williams
Evelyn Winters
In memory of Michael Winters
Lillian, Michael, James, Troy, Patrick and Melissa
Winters
In memory of Kenneth (Red) Winters

Youth News:--During the past summer and fall, there have been many activities in the Tyringham Valley which the youth have participated in. On Fridays throughout the months of July and August, the Golden Hour took place once again. Approximately twenty children participated in this program which was directed by Sue Choquette and Barbara Van Orman, with the help of many teachers whom they would like to thank.

At the start of fall came the start of Sunday School. Four different age group classes are held, ranging from age 3 up through high school students. About twenty young people participate in this program with Marilyn O'Hara as the Sunday School Superintendent.

For Halloween, the mothers of the Tyringham Play Group, headed by Barbara Washburn, organized a Halloween party for the youth. John Curtin and Gilder Palmer voluntarily drove haywagons for a hay ride, and giving the children a chance to go "trick or treating." Patricia Clark provided one of the haywagons for the event. Many thanks to all those who helped in any way to make these events possible and as successful as they were.

--MARJORIE SLATER

Out of Town News:--Reese Alsop, M.D., writes: "When my secretary tells me there's a doctor on the phone / I interrupt my patient and assume a pleasant tone / But when the only answer, the only anodyne / Consists of being told to hold for Doctor on the line / I wonder as I stand around a-wasting of my time / Just why he thinks his moments count for so much more than mine!" ... Ruth and Robert DuVernois celebrated their 60th anniversary November 2. They send warm greetings to all their Tyringham friends. ... Bill and Connie Dyer enjoyed a delightful bus trip through much of Tennessee and Kentucky this summer, visiting their son Arthur and his wife Agnes on the way home. They have purchased a mobile home in Palmetto, Fla., for the winter months. ... Chris and Anne Moffett are very much involved in the Church of the Advent in Boston; Jonathan is at Manter Hall, Sam at Salisbury School, and Sarah at Brimmer and May. ... Petey Perkins writes that their son David was married to Eve Lehman on August 28 in Bethany, Conn. Edward N. Perkins (Sr.) is spending the winter at the Leader Nursing Center II in Bethlehem, and they all are looking forward to celebrating his 100th birthday on May 4. ... Alice Thain spent three days at Disney World and was much impressed by the exhibits; also by the skill with which they use computers to handle their large crowds.

--MILLICENT MCINTOSH

The Hop Brook Community Club:--We have had a busy six months since the spring TOPICS report. In June we picked 40 quarts of strawberries for the Church Supper, and made plans for our July Saturday Lunches. Amy Fennelly made posters which we used to try to spread the news of our project; the attendance from out of town increased, but from Tyringham itself was disappointing. Because of this fact, and because the financial results ($212) did not seem to justify the amount of work involved, we decided to give them up.

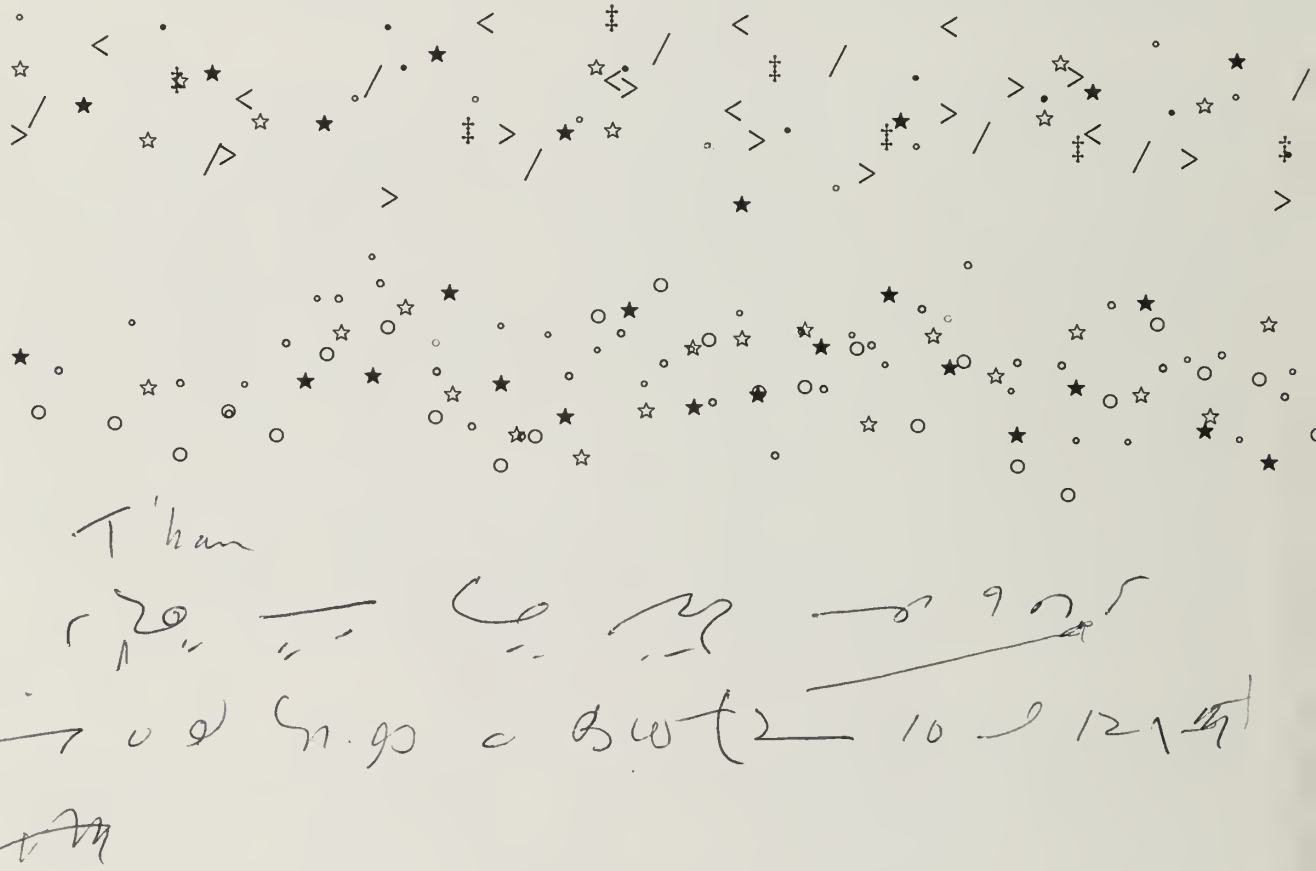
In August, Katharine and John McLennan once again opened their grounds for a community picnic. It was a cold, windy day, but many people came and enjoyed exploring the gardens and climbing to the ruins of the Titus mansion. Our free will offering came to $244. In September, Nini and George Gilder held an Open House in their "nearly-completed" octagon wing. It was a beautiful day, and many people enjoyed the tour and the marvelous view, contributing in return over $500 to the Steeple Fund. Carolyn gave over $400 from shares sold on her quilt.

Our biggest event came on November 13 when Virginia (Dwyer) Caruthers, Kristin Linklater, and Bill Roerick presented an evening's entertainment to benefit the

Steeple Fund. Jean Brown had suggested that we collect advertisements for the program, and a team of five active workers collected--somewhat to their astonishment--over $1,200 in one week. Our actors gave readings from William Gibson's The Miracle Worker, and Shakespeare's Tragedies, followed by comedy pieces from Congreve and Oscar Wilde. A large audience showed their appreciation by contributing over $1,300.

It is clear that the chief purpose of the Club is to find ways of benefiting the Church and the Community. But we also greatly enjoy our monthly lunches and our work together, and hope that others who are free Tuesday mornings can join us.

Millicent McIntosh, Secretary



Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

SPRING AND SUMMER 1983

REPORTERS: JULIA REBER MILLICENT McINTOSH MARY ELIZABETH SPENCER

How did so few accomplish so much? As a last word on the Tyringham Church steeple thanks are due to the many among us who worked to raise money for its reconstruction. For the record, the original "Steeple Committee" was chaired by John S. McLennan, and included members Carolyn Canon, Kenneth E. Jones, Fred Judd, Millicent C. McIntosh (Secretary), and F. W. Thober. The Building Committee were Ken Jones, Bob Brown, Fred Judd, Norman Day and Dick O'Hara. The indefatigable Milly McIntosh did yeoman service in sending letters to various foundations, historical societies, to our townspeople, to summer residents....well, you name it. And in the end, we not only achieved our goal of $29,161, but we went over the top. This speaks volumes for a village as small as Tyringham.

However--and alas--now that we have our new steeple, it is presently our unhappy lot to cast about for a new minister. The Rev. Richard E. O'Hara, pastor of our church since November 1977, has left us, due to unfortunate circumstances beyond his control. He has received the call to become pastor of the First Church of Christ in Lynn, Mass. (Congregational). This church is the oldest continuously operating Congregational church in the Western Hemisphere, having been established in 1632. The sense of history and tradition in which it is steeped must be quite awesome. The O'Haras urge their friends to visit them any time they are in the Lynn area. Their new address is: 83 York Road, Lynn 01904. And now, that all-encompassing word which Dick used in his final sermon to us, we return in full measure: To Dick, Marilyn, Joshua, and Jesse... "Godspeed." We will miss them.

Dick has asked us to convey the following: "A Final Farewell. Christian ministry is many different things. Often it is perceived only as the administration of programs and the preaching of sermons. Certainly it is both of these things, but Christian ministry is much more.

"The responsibilities of administration of the sacraments, visitation of the sick and shut-ins, and the duties of teaching and counseling, indicate that the bulk of Christian ministry is related to people.

"Of all the things which our family will remember about Tyringham, our fondest memories will be of its good people--people who have become our friends and neighbors --people we have grown to love. As we leave the valley, the Church and its people, we wish you God's richest blessings. You will be in our hearts and minds always.

Dick, Marilyn, Joshua and Jesse"

(Please note: While the Search Committee is diligently scouting for a new pastor, the Rev. David A. Dean, dean of faculty at the Berkshire Christian College, will be the interim minister for approximately six months.)

Births:--No one seems to have been born in the valley since the appearance of Alexis Ann Brown more than a year ago. However, we intend in our next issue to inform you of the event of the third O'Hara offspring--even if they have left town. We hope it's a girl.

Deaths:--Although in reality not a resident of Tyringham, Mrs. Bernice M. Downs is mentioned here in view of the fact that long ago she taught in our little one-room schoolhouse. She donated generously to TOPICS for many years. Her death occurred on July 12, 1982. We convey our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Downs's family.

Wilbur S. ("Duffy") Clark Jr. died at his home on March 25, 1982. Duffy was a veteran of World War II, serving with the Army in the Pacific. To Irma and her family we tender deep sympathy.

Tyringham-born John J. Curtin died at his home on March 25, 1983. He was the town's sealer of weights and measures for more than 30 years; also a former constable and town clerk. We condole with Davena and her family in their loss.

Long-time summer resident Edward N. Perkins died on April 14, 1983. Mr. Perkins came within days of achieving his 100th birthday. However, it seems proper to call him a "centenarian," since reaching that honorable and august age is not given to many of us. To the Ned Perkins family we tender our sincere sympathy.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--Susan Rector, daughter of Margaret Rector and the late James Knight Rector, was married at the Federal House Inn in South Lee on May 15, 1983 to William James Barkin of Greenwich, Conn. The couple will reside in Stockbridge.

All Around the Town:--Here is a tribute which is long overdue. The pretty plants which are presented to our Sunday School children on Children's Day each year are the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald A. Morin, of Lee, in memory of their son, John Albert, who died at the age of eleven a long time ago. For many years the Morins attended the Union Church here, at which time they became very fond of the valley, remembering it still with the plants on Children's Day each year. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Morin.

At its annual meeting on January 12th, the members of the Tyringham Union Church elected the following officers: Moderator, Charles E. Slater; Clerk, Millicent McIntosh; Treasurer, Janice Curtin; Deacon (none this year); Deaconess, Carolyn Canon; Member-at-Large, Margaret Curtin; Auditor, Rustin McIntosh; Trustee, Margaret Curtin; Finance Committee, Robert Brown; Nominating Committee, Kate Van Orman; Sunday School Superintendent, Marilyn O'Hara.

The following town officers were elected on May 16, 1983: Charles E. Slater, Moderator; Mary C. Hale, Selectman; M. Christine Bienvenue, Cemetery Trustee; J. Irma Clark, Library Trustee; Raymond E. Smith, Assessor; Stetson K. Adams, Assessor; Marion T. Clark, School Committee; Donald B. Hale, Park Commission; Donald B. Hale, Planning Board; Treasurer (vacant); Auditor (vacant).

On January 15, 1983, photographer Jennifer Bishop, daughter of Katharine McLennan,

had a showing of her work at the studio of Clemens Kalischer in Stockbridge. We thought her exhibit was excellent. She seems to have the rare faculty of putting her subjects entirely at their ease--or of their not even knowing she is snapping them. Jennifer's background material was culled mostly from the neighborhoods of the lower-income people of Baltimore, Md. All of her subjects seem relaxed and unposed, and she brings a deep insight to her calling. Good show, Jennifer!

Of the eleven small towns in Berkshire County which are not enlisted under the banner of the United Fund Drive, but do have a Red Cross Drive, Tyringham came out on top. The amount of $657 was raised by Davena Curtin, Chairman, and her late husband John. Davena has been ably heading up this project for more than 30 years. Our thanks to her, and to all who donated to the needs of the Red Cross.

On May 1, 1983, our firemen undertook their annual roadside clean-up chore. Thanks, presumably, to the Bottle Bill recently passed by the Commonwealth, there was not so much litter as in past years. Afterwards, all the picker-uppers gathered in the firehouse and were treated to hot dogs, provided by the firemen, and salads and other eatables prepared by the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary. What would we do without both organizations!

On May 11th, the church had a "surprise supper" for Dick and Marilyn O'Hara. Over 90 townspeople attended; the food was excellent; and from the high number of decibels resounding in the Community Center, we feel quite sure that a good time was had by all. Some humorous verses written by Milly McIntosh, and read by Jerry Bricker, depicted a number of Dick's adventures and misadventures during his ministry here--all of which was received with laughter and good grace. Toodie Alsop's framed painting, portraying Dick-in-the-pulpit, was presented to him by the artist, along with a substantial free will offering, and a brass knocker and check from the Church. All in all, a very pleasant evening.

The Golden Hour, now a summer tradition, will be held from July 8th to August 12th, on each Friday morning from 10 until noon in the Community Center. Children ages 3 through junior high are most welcome. Sue Choquette will be directing the program again, and she says that teachers and helpers would be appreciated. Any volunteers? By the way, since Marilyn O'Hara's departure has left open the position of Sunday School Superintendent, Sue, ever to the rescue, has agreed to take over this job, too. Whatever would we do without her like?

Read all about it! Something called The Annual Tyringham Cobble Run is about to be initiated. This race will take place on August 6th at 11 a.m.--the same day on which the firemen have their annual Steak Roast and Block Dance. As a matter of fact, the Tyringham Fire Company is sponsoring the race in conjunction with the Friends of the Trustees of Reservations. Nini Gilder and Player Crosby are taking on the responsibility for organizing the event. The course of the main race will be five miles, up and around the Cobble. To enter this will cost $5. A lesser "race"--coming under the heading of fun--will be two and a half miles, during which one can run, walk, or ramble. (Query: How does one judge between a walker and a rambler--style? gait?) To enter this more languid race will cost $3. Trophies will be awarded to all winners of the races. The purpose of all this strenuous activity will be to raise money for the preservation and maintenance of our geologically unusual Cobble, the care of which becomes more expensive with each passing year. More information will be available closer to the time of the event. (P.S.: A race of this sort was last run in 1912, and won by Harold Stedman. A long time ago, that.)

The Younger Set:--The following young people graduated from Lee High School this year: Tammy Blair, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Heath; Randy Cernik, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Cernik; Matthew Curtin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. Curtin; and Molly Curtin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Curtin. Matt Curtin, during the course of his career in high school, assisted in the construction of two houses and helped in building the

firemen's pavilion on the Main Road. During her four years in high school, Molly was on the Honor Roll eight times. Congratulations, Molly!

The scholarship awards, presented annually by the Hop Brook Community Club, went this year to Tammy Blair, who will attend Berkshire Community College, where she will take the Executive Secretary course; and Randy Cernik, who will also go to Berkshire Community College in pursuit of an Associate degree in Engineering. Good luck and happy days to our four grads!

A Look Back. We deemed it of interest to discover what some of our previous "awardees" are up to. Barbara Van Orman, daughter of Gordon and Kate Van Orman, is completing her third year at Hartwick College at Oneonta, N. Y. Barbara enjoys her courses; she has won her second Chemistry Award; and has been on the Dean's List several times.....Jeff Cernik, son of Larry and Betty Cernik, is a part-time radio announcer at Stations WBEC in Pittsfield and WSBS in Great Barrington.....Sam Slater, son of Charles and Elizabeth Slater, has completed a two-year course at the State University of New York at Cobleskill, and has been accepted at Cornell University. Sam was on the Dean's List three times. Cheers! At Cornell he will work toward obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Farm Business Management.....Jennifer Darey, daughter of Francis and Holly Darey, was quite lyrical about her paralegal courses at Bay Path Junior College. She said she had to work hard, but was enjoying every minute of it. Our congratulations and best wishes to all these young people.

Department of Utter Trivia:--From "Today's Chuckle:" Sign at meat department counter, "Choplifters will be prosecuted.".....Architect of ultra-modern church to minister, "Know what would be nice? Bucket pews.".....From Modern Maturity: "Crashing into a telephone pole, the speeding motorist was knocked out. When he regained consciousness, he discovered he was clutching a handful of wires. 'Thank goodness,' he sighed in relief. 'It's a harp.'"

JULIA REBER

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB

The Hop Brook Community Club had as its first objective after Christmas helping to raise the balance needed by the Steeple Fund. To this end they sponsored two benefits: a slide show and talk by Reese Palmer about his bicycle trip to California, and a four-week session on "Exploring Your Family Roots," given by our distinguished genealogist, Marcia Eisenberg. Reese's beautiful slides were presented with a taped background of suitable music accompanying his modest and interesting account of his extraordinary trip. Marcia's class recruited twelve dedicated members, who with her braved the sleet and ice of our impossible March to attend her four two-hour sessions at the Lee Library, and were thrilled with what they learned. The two events yielded over $500 for the Steeple Fund, making a total of over $5,000 earned by the Club for this purpose.

In April, we enjoyed an illustrated talk given with beautiful slides by the Rev. William L. McLennan Jr. for the benefit of the Church. A Unitarian minister, with law and divinity degrees from Harvard, "Scotty" brought an unusual expertise to his account of his travels around the world, and cast light on the religious attitudes and social problems of the countries he visited.

The Club plans to help the Church Committee put on their Strawberry Supper by picking strawberries (if it ever stops raining) and to do the work connected with the dedication of the Steeple in July.

MILLICENT McINTOSH, Secretary

JOHN STEWART McLENNAN

A blizzard was raging in Tyringham at 5:30 a.m. on November 26, 1915 when John McLennan was born. The attending physicians were snowed in at Ashintully and, their mission completed, they settled in for some rubbers of bridge until the plow arrived up on the hill near Round Mountain.

It was rare for the family to be in Tyringham that late in the year. Grace McLennan usually left after the foliage fell to roam the world writing about the international political issues which were her abiding interest. After her first husband, Egyptologist Robert dePeyster Tytus, died in the fall of 1913, she sold much of the farm land he had acquired in 1903, keeping only the 770 acres bought in 1906 that surrounded the grand old house built between 1910 and 1912. (The earlier purchases had been three farms totaling 500 acres, originally the Solomon Garfield farm. In 1977, 446 acres of the land which remained in the family were deeded to the Trustees of Reservations as a nature reserve.)

In 1914 John's mother had married John Stewart McLennan, a Canadian of eclectic interests including moral philosophy, journalism (he owned the Sydney Post Dispatch in Nova Scotia), historic preservation (he spearheaded the restoration of the Fortress of Louisbourgh in Nova Scotia after writing its history) and politics (for more than 45 years he was a member of Parliament). But the marriage was short lived and by the time John was six years old his mother began what he remembers as their "nomadic winters." Sometimes she took a place in Washington, D. C. But more often they were found in whatever European country interested Grace McLennan at the moment so that she could send back articles to Outlook or Forum, influential magazines of the day. For reasons hard to understand, a tutor did not accompany the family. Rather, John was put in a local school for whatever length of time their stay demanded. He well recalls a brief enrollment in a school in Rumania. Classes were, naturally, taught in Rumanian. He knew nary a word, of course, of the language.

It wasn't until 1929, a year after his mother's death, that John attended school in a serious manner. It was Newport, Rhode Island's St. George's School. Classes were, naturally, conducted in English. During his three years there he came under the influence of Carl Thorpe, the choir master and piano teacher. Thorpe was that all too rare breed: a teacher who can inflame and excite a student's latent interest. And he had an apt pupil. When Thorpe told John's elder sister, Mildred Tytus, that he believed John had "considerable talent," she thought he should concentrate on music. Much to the dismay of the St. George's administration, he left and enrolled in Baltimore's Peabody Institute, a well known music conservatory. He stayed two years, majoring in piano. After Mildred died in an automobile crash in 1933, he left and went to New York City to study privately.

By this time John's interest in the piano had "begun to recede," as he puts it, and composition came to the fore. He had the grandiose ideas of the young and remembers particularly how Eric Itor Kahn with whom he studied composition (he was also studying harmony and counterpoint with others) forced discipline upon him. For each weekly lesson he had to submit short pieces for piano and for voice and a duet for whichever instruments he chose. His first major work, a piano sonata, was finished during this period.

The world of the composer is a lonely one in every sense of the word. A painter or sculptor can work in the hope that he will interest a gallery in his art. A writer knows that there are publishers willing to take a chance on an unpublished author's work. But a composer needs more. He or she thrives on commissions from performing

organizations and instrumentalists, a chance introduction which brings work in dance or film. And the roads are not always long for the serious composer. John learned this truth when work he did for the Ballet Russe, a solo work called "intermezzo" and a full ballet titled "The Lion in Love," became a dead end. By chance he went to Hollywood in 1936 and worked on two film scores, "Marie Antoinette" and "Vivacious Lady." An interesting artistic experience but, again, one that led nowhere for a variety of reasons: movieland's tight little set and his disenchantment with acquiring the facility to write very quickly to a prescribed scenario.

But not too long afterward pianist James Wolfe commissioned some pieces and liked them so well that he played them all over the United States and abroad. This led to commissions for chamber music and encouragement from Leon Barzun, the late and much lamented founder of the National Orchestral Association. Barzun saw his orchestra as a vehicle for the performance of new works. He believed both that a composer needs to hear his music played and that good exposure never did anyone harm. The orchestra played John's first big orchestral work ("Three Pieces for Orchestra") and commissions followed from the Hartford String Symphony, the American Dance Festival, the Canterbury Cathetral, the Berkshire Boys' Choir.

He works at the Steinway in his large studio. It was once an Ashintully barn which was restored in 1952 four years after he began fulltime residence in the former superintendent's house. His basically tonal music is published by Gunther Schuller's MarGun Music. Another Schuller company, GunMar, recently recorded one of his big organ works ("Tryptych"), some songs and a six and a half minute piece for organ ("Ceremonial Music"). Commenting on the recordings in the Berkshire Eagle, music critic Andrew Pincus sounded just a little peeved that he had so recently discovered John McLennan's talent. "McLennan," he wrote, "turns out to be something of a candle hidden under a bushel. One selection on the record, his 'Ceremonial Music' for organ, is a real stunner ... the toccata-like piece works its way from a brilliant opening to an even more brilliant finale, climaxing in possibly the most thundering C Major chord since Richard Strauss (and the movie '2001') split the heavens with that introduction to 'Also sprach Zarathustra.' Try this to see how your new stereo equipment works.... The other three works are never less than likable and sometimes a good bit more."

This time of year his love of nature has a way of tugging at John's commitment to music. They are intertwined, of course, and complement one another. Says he of his grounds: "I've always been very moved by the effects of landscaping and nature." And of music: "I can never remember a moment in my life when I haven't been absolutely fascinated by music."

LIZ SPENCER

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

AUTUMN AND WINTER 1983

REPORTERS: JULIA REBER MILLICENT McINTOSH SUSAN CHOQUETTE

It is no easy thing to find a new minister. This was the situation we faced when the Rev. Richard E. O'Hara left us for Lynn and greater laurels. It cannot be said that the Search Committee of the Tyringham Union Church was deluged with applications. However, those individuals who responded all stressed a hankering for country living. One applicant responded from as far away as California. Another informed us he had a wife and six children. We could visualize the parsonage bulging at its seams. Another such member of the cloth hinted that he had some mysterious power akin to "a laying on of hands." Very interesting, of course, but not exactly germane to our search. While all this was going on, Dr. David A. Dean, dean of faculty at Berkshire Christian College, as interim minister, conducted our church services. His sermons were much enjoyed by everyone and we are accordingly grateful to him.

Finally the Search Committee settled on Mr. A. Peter Kulberg of Lyndonville, Vt. to lead Tyringham's flock. In due time Peter, his wife JoAnn, and daughters Sorina and Nadine, arrived and are now comfortably ensconced in the parsonage. Inasmuch as Peter's past experience has been in the teaching line, he has not been ordained. This will take place next Spring. In the meantime, he has surmounted the first hurdle on the way to ordination, and has been licensed to perform the Sacraments. Peter graduated from Berkshire Christian College in 1976, and received a master's degree in religion from Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1982. He has taught courses in church history, history of philosophy, and New Testament Greek at various Sunday Schools and churches. He has also worked as journeyman electrician and carpenter--very useful trades in this this day and age.

From all of us, a hearty welcome to Peter and his family.

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Births:--Well, we guessed wrong. It was a boy--Jonathan David O'Hara, born to Marilyn and Dick O'Hara (our former pastor) on August 18, 1983.

Deaths:--Dr. Eliot D. Weitzman of White Plains, N. Y., founder and director of the Institute of Chronobiology, died on June 13, 1983. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Weitzman of Webster Road. We tender sincerest sympathy to his family.... Mrs. Phyllis Staddom Loring of the Main Road died on June 19, 1983 after a long illness. For many years Phyllis contributed to the Poet's Corner of the Berkshire Eagle, and otherwise delighted many with her homespun verses. To Fred Loring and his family we convey deepest sympathy.... Summer resident Annette D. Rudd of Fernside and Princeton, N. J., died at her home here on August 20, 1983. Annette loved Tyringham and was a very generous donor to all its church and community affairs. Along with Eugenie Rudd Fawcett and her family, we mourn her passing.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--Cindy Sedgwick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Sedgwick of Lenox, became the bride on September 11, 1983 of Steven R. Adams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stetson Adams of Tyringham. The Rev. Lois Rose performed the ceremony at St. Andrews Chapel, Washington, Mass.... On September 24, 1983, Elaine Frances Loring, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Loring Jr. of Otis, was wed to Edward Arnold of Sandisfield. He is the son of Mrs. Betty Arnold of Lee and Milton Arnold of Sandisfield. The Rev. Allen Comstock of Stockbridge officiated at the ceremony in the Tyringham Union Church.... At the other end of the spectrum, our felicitations to Ruth and Robert Duvernois, formerly of Tyringham, now residing in Stuart, Fla., who celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary in November! A record for today.

All Around the Town:--Back in the early Sixties, the late Gen. Miles Reber donated, in memory of his mother Mrs. Samuel Reber, a long-time summer resident of the valley, three rather unique town signs. During the ensuing years one was stolen, one was vandalized, and one fell into an advanced state of decrepitude. Then along came a triumvirate of dedicated Tyringhamites: Donny Hale, Gerald Swart, and Christine Bienvenue. Donny carved three signs to the exact original dimensions; Gerald Swart applied a special kind of white paint; and Chris, who has a definite artistic flair, beautifully lettered them, conforming precisely to the original "A Hinterland Settlement" sign. Once more the boundaries of Tyringham are delineated--at no cost to the town--and we are very grateful to Chris, Donny and Gerald.

Another labor of love--Doug and Marion Leach have done a great deal of work on the Tyringham Cobble. (Doug impressed us with the fact that a number of other local people have also contributed their time.) However, Doug and Marion have done yeoman service in cutting brush and trimming back. They have built a fence along the top of the Cobble past the brow of the hill. They also have completed a second section which will run down Cobble to Hop Brook opposite Orchard House, then along the brook and back to the Lehner property, whence it started. This will concentrate the grazing of cattle on that side of Cobble. The Trustees of Reservations provided some summer help, but the Leaches themselves--from trees cut on Cobble--made the required 600 fence posts. What a vote of thanks we owe them!

There seems to be no dearth of civic-minded persons in our little village. After 18 months of painstaking labor, Marcia Eisenberg, genealogist, and Clint Elliott, Chairman of the Tyringham Historical Commission, have completed Volume I of the town records, 1762-1782. In times past it was necessary for us to have recourse to this volume, so we know very well what a difficult task it was to decipher the handwriting of "the ancient ones." Marcia and Clint have made no attempt to correct spelling or punctuation, which should make for interesting reading. One of the most intriguing of the chapters will be the one containing the Rev. Adonijah Bidwell's searing letter of denunciation to the townspeople--a missive full of sulfur, brimstone, and wit. His salary had not been paid for four years. Truly a long-suffering Divine. It is expected that the book--about 300 pages long--will be published next Spring.

On a summer day of unsurpassed loveliness, July 10th, we celebrated the dedication of our church steeple, of which edifice reams have already been written. Suffice it to say that our former pastor, Dick O'Hara and his family attended the dedication-supper sponsored by the Hop Brook Community Clyb in the Community Center. Milly McIntosh, club secretary, made an interesting and amusing introductory speech, outlining the hard work, the pitfalls, and finally the club's gratification when its goal--and beyond--had been achieved. Dick then dedicated the steeple with an extraordinarily apt speech of his own. All in all, not a wrong note was struck in the entire ceremony, and everyone came away with a definite feeling of communal fellowship.

One last steeple note. (Honestly!) A July issue of "Berkshire Week" contained an excellent article by writer Walter Howard of our town, entitled, "Tyringham Steeple Chase," wherein he detailed the history of the church from its beginning to the present day.

CHRISTMAS SONGS BY MARY AND JOSEPH

MARY "believed what the LORD said would be accomplished," so she dedicated a song to "God my Savior" (Luke 1:45-55). Like a beautiful patchwork quilt, her hymn stitches Scriptures--here a little, there a little--creating a print of what God was fulfilling in this special birth. For backing she wove clippings from eleven Psalms. Pictured on this are Rachel, Leah and Hannah (who experienced similar Divine help). Frames and borders are from promises and quips of Isaiah, Micah, Habakkuk, Job and King David's Victory Song. It is a magnificent display piece, but also a Christmas comforter!

JOSEPH, on the other hand, was not "into" poetry. He was a carpenter. A quiet, dutiful man who tended his trade and civil responsibilities. Never quoted, but always a man who "got up and did." The events surrounding the Christ's birth depend largely on Joseph. His Davidic descent required the trip to Bethlehem. He fulfilled all Jewish and local laws respecting Jesus. The Divine messages to go and return came to him, and the last time we see him is the yearly, family Passover pilgrimage. Did he have a song? Did he whistle as he fitted and oiled wood? Was there melody in his "marveling" at God's handiwork? Ponder the meaning of Christmas afresh, and we can probably sing his song, too.

A. Peter Kulberg

And the blessings of God be also upon this Hanukkah Season.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

Marjorie and Richard Allen and Family
Walt and Rosa Alward, Walt Jr. and Heidi
Robert and Toodie Alsop - Tom and Suzette Jones; Denny and Beck Alsop; Michael and Delly Eisenman; Bill and Christina Beautyman
"Babbie" Barhydt
In memory of John Barhydt
The Bienvenues: Roy, Chris, D.C. and R.C.
Richard and Georgia Birkett
Mrs. Warner B. Bishop - Grandmother of Susan, Judith, Katharine and Jennifer Bishop; Great-grandmother of Rachel and Maia
Barbara and Norbert Bogdan
Teresa, Tricia and Rodney Bragdon
In memory of our father, Butch Bragdon, from Tricia and Rodney
Bob, Mary Ann, Nicole and Alexis Brown
Jean Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Brown; Clair, Michael and Daniel Robert Brown
Mrs. Mary Burdick
Carolyn G. Canon
Mrs. Clifford R. Canon
In memory of my husband Clifford R. Canon
Nort, Eleanor and Jennifer Canon
Albert M. Carlson
In memory of Albert H. Carlson
In memory of Mary M. Carlson
In memory of Thelma R. Carlson

Carolyn Carlson
In memory of Henning M. Carlson
In memory of Mrs. Martin L. Butler (Gussie)
In memory of James S. Clark
In memory of Carrie E. Clark
In memory of James H. Clark
In memory of Wilbur S. Clark
In memory of Carrie L. Clark
In memory of Marine Cpl. Horace W. Clark
Henning, Joyce, Michael and Kimberly Carlson
Virginia Caruthers; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moran and Conor
Jim and Sheila Caseley, Steven Caseley, Kerstin Anderson
Larry, Betty, Jeff, and Randy Cernik
Donald, Jeremy, and Scott Cernik
Richard and Jessica Cernik
Bob and Sue Choquette, Aubrey and Noah
Harvey and Dot Choquette
Chuck, Terry, David, Jon and Kevin Clark
Mr. Francis E. Clark and Family
Irma Clark
In memory of "Duffy" Clark
Pat Clark, Dave, Robin and Kristie
Player and Bobbie Crosby, Jay and Kit; Erik and Peter Bruun; Marge Currie; Althea Cooper; Chris Munro
Thomas Coley
Mrs. Franklin Couch
Agnes Curtin
Davena Curtin
Mary Curtin
Carl Curtin and Family
Eugene Curtin and Family
Neil, Helen, Mary, Jerry, Molly and Tim Curtin
Terry, Marilyn, Butch, Kelly, Beth and Stephen Curtin
Tommy and Maggie Curtin
Holly, Putt and Jennifer Darey
Ann and Donald Davis: Gary, Sharon, Jennifer and Ryan Davis; Chip, Karen and Bryan Davis
Mrs. Jean P. Davis
Harry Ellis Dickson and Family: Governor Michael and Kitty Dukakis; Dr. Alfred and Jinny Peters; and all the grandchildren
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer W. Dodge
Paul and Doreen Dodge, and Tylee
Thomas Dodge and Family
Alice and Alison Donald
John Donald and Penelope Borax
Gerry, Donna, Christine and Patty Drake
Gerald and Jean Marie Drake
Robert and Ruth DuVernois, and Jim
Robert, Josiane and Michael DuVernois; and Cecile Ford
Bill and Connie Dyer
Art Dyer
Dr. and Mrs. Louis Eisenberg and Family
Flint, Varrey, Susannah, Alex and Posy Elliott

Jim and Bev (Dyer) Elsensohn, Eric and Heidi
Ann, John, Andi, Alex, Parker and Eleanor Emerson
Jim and Eugenie Fawcett, John, Donald, Nan and James
Bill, Marilyn, Parker and Cathy Fennelly
Eddie, Dianne, Adam, Darrell and Patty Fennelly
Everett R. Fennelly, and Mary Beth Decker
Mary Ann, Amy and Kathy Fennelly; Charles Seay
Tom Fennelly
Jerry Floyd Fenton, Caryn I. Schulz
Lieut. Michael and Dawn (Cernik) Fredette
Lizbeth Fullemann
Marian Gelsleichter
George and Nini Gilder, Louisa and Mellie
Rod, Mellie, David and Cindy, and Joshua Gilder
Mrs. Arthur Gilmore
In memory of Arthur Gilmore Sr.
In memory of Arthur Gilmore Jr.
Don and Mary Hale
In loving memory of Elizabeth L. Hale
Juel Hale; the Santanastasis, Joan, Ronnie, Chris and Elizabeth
In memory of Elizabeth Hale
Sue and Steve Hale
Charles and Judith Hauer
Sandy, Arnold, Cathy and Suzie Hayne
Eleanor and John (Rocky) Hoag
John and Lucy Holloway
Sarah Hudson
Ken and Berta Jones, Kenny and Linda
Al, Martha, Jason and Allison Joyner
Fred and Phyllis Judd
In memory of Eloise S. Myers
In memory of Beulah Cannon
Wil, Mary D., Plum and Nick Kierstead
Grace Knickerbocker
Mrs. Julie (Dodge) Korst, Cecelie and Heidi
George and Betty Kramer; Alice, Hawley and Charles Truax
Peter and JoAnn Kulberg, Sorina and Nadine
Doug and Marion Leach
Eugene, Lucca, Andreas, Mary, Adam and Sven Lehner
Bruce Logan
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Logan
Beatrice Loring
Dot and Dick Loring; Ricky Loring; Eddie and Carol Loring and Family; Charles and Debbie (Loring) Hunt and Family
Olive Loring
Tunk, Dede, Chuck and Tony Loring; Ed and Elaine Arnold
Margaret Luchars, Barrie, Alex, Charles and James
W. Merritt and MaryLou McBrian
Rusty and Milly McIntosh; Jim, Carey, Sue, Ken, and Dick
John and Katharine McLennan and Family
The Millers; Ted and Helena; Rod, Katherine, Max and Gabriel; Judy, Steve, Nadia and Tess; Amasa, Mirella and Elisa; Ginny and Molly
Anne and Chris Moffett, Jonathan, Sam and Sarah

Polly and Ray Montgomery
Alice, Gerald and Guy Morin
The Moskin Family
In memory of Paula Mattlin
Dick and Marilyn O'Hara, Joshua, Jesse, and Jonathan
Lois Olds
Anne, Gilder and Reese Palmer
Francesca G. Palmer and Rosamond Gilder
John and Hylie Pappenheimer and Family
The Ned Perkins Family
Jesse Pierce
In memory of Helen Butler
Mrs. Phillips W. Pursell
Viggo and Catha, Kristin, Martin, Edwin and Lucia Rambusch
Tootie, Fred, Martha, James and Sarah Read
Judy and Peggy Reber
Margaret Rector
Carin Revander
Dorothea Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Guy Robb; Dr. and Mrs. Theodore Nelson;
Miss Theodora Nelson
William Roerick
Dr. J. A. Saltzmann
Eugene and Ina Schnell, Eric, Vicki and Nancy
Henriette, Leonard and Andrew Schwartz
Grace Slater
Charlie, Liz, Marjorie and Sam Slater
Chuck, Alice, April and Ryan Slater
Mary and Gene Smith
Liz Spencer
Tom and Helen Stephens, Mark and Laura
William and Olive Stewart
Jo Stott
Ruth and Gerald Swart
Alice S. Thain
Bill and Blanche Thober
Rev. Vesta Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Asher E. Treat
Alethea Rudd Truax
Helen and Eddie Twing
Brian and Sidney Urquhart, Rachel and Charlie; Thomas
Canfield
Gordon, Kate and Barbara Van Orman
Barbara and Deric Washburn, Jennifer and Stephanie
Louis and Cecele Weitzman; Arthur and Kathy Weitzman and
Family; Muriel Weitzman and Family
Mrs. Emily B. Welch
Bert, Karen, Keith, Timmy and Chad Williams
Evelyn Winters
In memory of Michael Winters
Lillian, Michael, James, Troy, Patrick and Melissa Winters
In memory of Kenneth (Red) Winters

Our summer Strawberry Supper, to benefit the church, was held June 22nd. Maggie Curtin and Mary Ann Fennelly, organizers, together with their willing and able helpers produced a delicious supper, which was a financial success. The Harvest Festival supper on October 26th, headed up by the same industrious ladies, had a somewhat lesser attendance, but made out quite well financially. It takes a lot of hard work to put on these church suppers, and Maggie and Mary Ann and all who fetch and carry and donate deserve a round of applause.

Two Tag Sales were held July 30th. Putt Darey and Stet Adams held one on behalf of the Tyringham Fire Company at the firemen's pavilion. Putt said it was a great success. Maggie Curtin held hers at the Community Center on behalf of the church; it realized $340. Maggie and Putt both want to relay their thanks to the townspeople for their donations.... Also under the roof of the new pavilion, the members of the Volunteer Fire Company hosted their 1983 Steak Roast and Dance. The dinner as usual was delicious, and from every indication the affair was a great success.

A footnote to the foot race of last summer. The Annual Tyringham Cobble Run of August 6th made $1,700 above expenses. Great! It was voted to put $1,000 into the endowment fund, and to use the rest for Cobble expenses.

On November 7th, at a special meeting, the town voters elected Richard Heath of Goose Pond as selectman to succeed W. DeKay Palmer, who resigned that position on July 14th. Also approved as an additional assessment of $4,706 in real estate and personal property taxes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1983; and for the same period, $31,000 in local taxes was approved as an over-ride of Proposition 2-1/2.

On a less gloomy note, we congratulate Mary C. Hale, who has been elected Vice President of the Berkshire County Selectmen's Association.... And on August 1st, Elizabeth Slater took over the office of Town Treasurer upon the resignation of W. DeKay Palmer. Good luck, Liz!

We quote the following letter from Lizbeth Fullemann, President of the Valley Club: "Our major project this year was the flower planting in the center of town. This fall we added a modest display of spring bulbs, which we hope to augment in the coming years. In order to raise money for this and other projects, we held a raffle for a basket of Thanksgiving dinner fixings/or the equivalent in money. [Note: Marcia Eisenberg was the prize winner, and donated the money toward the printing of the 1762-1782 Town Records.] We continue to meet on the final Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. Recently re-elected officers are: Betty Cernik, Treas.; Dot Choquette, Secretary; Barbara Adams, Vice Pres.; and Lizbeth Fullemann, Pres." (The Valley Club's summerlong display of flowers on the village green was indeed heartwarming and eye-catching.--J.R.)

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Tyringham Fire Company held an election recently, and the following officers were elected: Kathy Curtin, President (243-3238); Sissie Curtin, Vice President (243-2999); Dianne Fennelly, Treasurer (243-1934); Joyce Carlson, Secretary (243-1897); and Evelyn Winters, Asst. Secretary (243-0463). In cases of outages and other winter crises, please don't hesitate to get in touch with any of the above ladies. The firehouse, as usual, is stocked with the necessities and is prepared to cope. Incidentally, each summer the ladies of the Auxiliary put in many hours of hard work to make the Firemen's Steak Roast the success that it is.

Marianne Burdick Dearstyne, now of Pittsfield but formerly a resident of the valley, has been awarded a $1,000 college scholarship by the publishers of the National Dean's List. She attends Smith College, where she is majoring in selected studies. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and received the Austen Riggs Award for excellence in behavioral sciences. Congratulations, Marianne!

John and Katharine McLennan raised about $6,200 in early September for a very worthy cause: Mount Vernon, the final home of our first President, George Washington. This historic edifice is now in woeful disrepair and efforts are being made, countrywide, to raise funds to rectify the condition. In the McLennan "barn-studio," Courtney Kenny, musical director of the Wexford Opera Festival in Ireland, played and sang

American show tunes to the delight of the audience. John and Katharine must be gratified with the results of their hard work.

On a Military Note: Sp. 4 Terry Curtin Jr. enlisted in the Army January 22, 1981. After basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. in the Armored Division, he was transferred for an eighteen-month tour of duty in Amber, West Germany. He will depart for Fort Carson, Colo. when his home leave of 30 days is over.

The Annual Christmas Party for the children of the town will be held on Monday, December 19th at seven o'clock in the town hall. Mr. S. Claus, in full regalia, will be on hand to greet them, and to present their Christmas gifts. (Note to parents: Please bring the presents for your children, as in previous years. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Santa's stand-in: Jerry Curtin.)

Department of Utter Trivia:--From Modern Maturity magazine: "When asked how he felt about LSD, the old timer replied, 'I think he was a very good president.'" "Sign in a service station: 'Courteous and efficient self-service.'"

JULIA REBER

Youth News:--The Golden Hour Vacation Bible School, now a Tyringham summer tradition, saw yet another happy and productive season as 25 children gathered each Friday morning for song, praise, Bible learning, and crafts. Our good friend, the Lollipop Dragon, returned this season to delight the children in a puppet show presenting the theme of each week's lesson.

Much credit and many thanks are due The Golden Hour Gang: Ruth LeCompte, Mary Ann Brown, Marjorie Slater, and Barbara Van Orman for their faithfulness and enthusiasm in preparing weekly for the program. The Golden Hour is under the direction of Sue Choquette.

The mothers of the Tyringham Play Group announce the start of a weekly Story Hour at the Library each Monday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:00. Judy Reber has graciously accepted the challenge of attempting to hold the attention of our numerous and wiggly Little Ones, while reading books from the Library's children's collection, and those suggested and made available by the mothers. All children are invited to attend this delightful weekly presentation. (NOTE: The Play Group, abovementioned, meets each Friday morning from 10:00 to 12:00 at the homes of either Nini Gilder or Barbara Washburn. All pre-schoolers are cordially invited to attend.)

SUSAN CHOQUETTE

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB

We have been in a "resting phase" during the last six months, after the many benefits we sponsored to raise money for the Church steeple. In 1982 and the first part of 1983, we had collected over $5,000 toward the $29,000 needed to complete the job. During the summer, through one project, a lecture on Bird Migration given by a Yale professor, Dr. Elisha Atkins on September 17th. Dr. Atkins gave a fascinating, scholarly account of the newest developments in tracking birds. We also heard a talk by Clinton Elliott on the plans of the Historical Commission to publish Volume I of the Town Records. We made an initial contribution of $500, and promised to help in raising the balance needed. We are now discussing several exciting new projects, which we hope will enliven the winter months.

We were happy to welcome two new members, Dot Choquette and Mary Smith, and rejoiced in the return of Irma Clark.

MILLICENT McINTOSH, Secretary

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

SPRING AND SUMMER 1984

REPORTERS: JULIA REBER MILLICENT McINTOSH ELIZABETH SPENCER

Bear:--A large, heavy, clumsy mammal, with shaggy fur and a very short tail. Native to temperate and arctic zones. The commonest varieties are the brown, black, grizzly and white polar bears. (Webster's New World Dictionary, College Edition.) It was beginning to appear that "Our Bear" was being written about from Puget Sound to Cape Hatteras. However, it was only the Berkshire Eagle which had an obsession about this one black bear, which someone dubbed "Tyringham Ted." Subsequent events indicated that "Ted" should more correctly have been called--well--"Tammy," if we may give her a name more appropriate to her sex. Tammy was a black bear, apparently indigenous to our area. What set Tammy apart from others of her kind was, unfortunately, that she was an old, blind, almost toothless, woefully underweight bear, with her best years behind her. She came out of hibernation one day in April, and set about foraging in the McIntosh, Slater, Rambusch and Spencer fields. The news was broadcast and in no time hordes of people congregated at the sites, and Tammy began to receive the sort of attention which would have gladdened the heart of a budding film star. People gazed and wondered. Cameras clicked. Human nature being what it is, and as Tammy browsed with unconcern, some people, emboldened, began throwing beer cans at her, and in other ways harassing her. That was not nice.

The daily foraging for grasses (which was all poor Tammy could eat), continued for perhaps more than a month. Finally the Powers That Be, having kept close tabs on Tammy, decided to tranquilize her in order to ascertain her general physical state. It was then that they discovered her piteous condition. It is hard to please everyone all the time, but it seemed that the best thing to do for Tammy was to "put her to sleep"--a rather overworked euphemism. In spite of her weakened condition, Tammy wasn't entirely defenseless. In the process of being rounded up she broke two legs on one of the bear hounds. There is a lot of power in the swipe of a bear's paw--and carrying this idea a step farther, and substituting a person (perhaps even a child) for the dog, is to think the unthinkable. Tammy's condition was expertly diagnosed. The manner of her demise was carried out with compassion by professionals. Of course, the decision in the case of this beguiling bear was a sad one--as anyone knows who has ever had to have a well-loved family pet "put to sleep."

Births:--On March 8, 1984, to George and Nini Gilder, a son, Richard Brooke Gilder. His maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John L. B. Brooke of Lenox, and the paternal grandparents are Anne Palmer of the Tyringham Main Road, and the late Richard Watson Gilder.....To John Donald and Penelope Borax, a son, David George Borax Donald, born April 6, 1984, in San Diego, CA. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Eugene

Borax of Houston, TX, and the paternal grandparents are Mrs. John K. Donald of Fernside and Scarsdale, NY, and the late John K. Donald.....On May 16, 1984, to Richard and Linda (Snyder) Butler of Pine Plains, NY, a daughter, Meghan Elizabeth. The paternal grandparents are Carl and Diane (Birkett) Butler; the maternal grandparents are Millard and the late Nellie Snyder; AND the great-grandparents are Richard and Georgia Birkett of our town, and Mrs. Ruth Jennings of Ancram, NY.

Deaths:--Davena F. Curtin, widow of the late John J. Curtin, died on December 29, 1983. Although involved in many outside activities, her principal one was as town representative for the American Red Cross, which position she held for 35 years. She served as Clerk of the Church Committee for several terms. Our sympathy to all of Davena's family. For all you "oldsters" who remember them--Ag Curtin told us she received a formal announcement (in Dutch!) of the death of Catherine Schots, widow of Jacob Schots, of Amsterdam, Holland. In the 1930s and 40s, Mr. Schots worked as a gardener at the old Clarkson place (now Weitzmann) and for the Osbornes (now Salzmann). Mr. Schots was well known and liked and both he and his wife were members of our local church.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--Jean Marie Drake, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Drake, formerly of South Lee, but now of Lake City, FL, was married to Timothy Laudon, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Laudon of Lenox Dale. The wedding took place on March 3, 1984, in Lake City. We mention these nuptials particularly because we remember Donna (Heath) Drake, the bride's mother, fondly and well when she was a child and young girl here in Tyringham. We hope, also, that Donna and Gerald are enjoying their new home in Florida.....Mrs. Lois Olds, formerly of Tyringham, but now a resident of Heritage Hills in Somers, NY, was married to Warren Swift, also of Heritage Hills, on June 5, 1984.

All Around the Town:--On Wednesday, January 11, 1984, the congregation of the Tyringham Union Church met and elected the following officers: Moderator, Charles Slater; Clerk, Millicent McIntosh; Treasurer, Robert Brown; Deacon, Kenneth Jones; Deaconess (none this year); Member-at-Large, Kathleen Van Orman; Auditor, Rustin McIntosh; Trustee, Frank W. Thober; Finance Committee, Millicent McIntosh; Nominating Committee, Julia Reber; Sunday School Superintendent, Susan Choquette.

Of the town's 220 registered voters, 22 percent turned out on Monday, May 14, 1984, and elected the following officers: Moderator, Charles E. Slater Sr.; Town Clerk, Alice M. Hale; Selectman, Richard A. Heath Sr.; Cemetery Trustee, Charles E. Slater Sr.; Library Trustee, Janice Curtin; Treasurer, Elizabeth B. Slater; Assessor, Raymond E. Smith; School Committee, Joan Mougin; Park Commissioner, Gary Davis; Auditor (vacant); Planning Board (vacant).

Gerald Swart, of the town's Planning Board, tells us that the Board has been requested by the Selectmen to furnish the latter with information regarding the dredging of Hop Brook behind the town hall. The added depth will provide more water for the fire company, thus insuring an added fire safety feature. Also at the Selectmen's request, the Board is studying the feasibility of acquiring more land to increase the area of the town cemetery.

Dick ("Hoppy") Loring was gracious enough at the last town meeting to thank the townspeople for their cooperation during several severe snow storms we had last winter. In turn, we would like to thank him and his crew, Charles Loring and Bruce Logan, for the splendid work they did in keeping the roads clear. It's a cold and tedious job and we all appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

On August 4, 1984, two interesting town events will take place. The 2nd Annual Tyringham Cross Country Cobble Run will be held, and will be identical with last year's race. The Fun Race, of two and a half miles, will start at 9 a.m. Then will come the Run, Walk or Ramble "race." The main race starts at 10 a.m. at the Tyringham Fire House. The toughest part of this race is the three-quarter-mile ascent up the face of the Cobble, the rest of the course being not so difficult. Both races are open to both sexes and to all ages. There will be prizes in various age categories. Nini Gilder and Player Crosby of our town are two of the four race coordinators. The income realized from this event is very necessary for the preservation and maintenance of this unique geological formation.

On this same illustrious day, the firemen will hold their Annual Steak Roast and Dance. Tickets for this event may be obtained from the firemen of the race committee. Don't wait too long!

While yet on the subject of suppers--and with the strawberries cooperating--Maggie Curtin & Co. plan to have the annual Strawberry Festival Supper on Wednesday, June 27th. Y'all come.

Sponsored by the Tyringham Fire Company, approximately 30 industrious and civic-minded local people participated in the annual roadside clean-up. Upon completion of their labors, refreshments were served at the fire-house. Salads were part of the menu, courtesy of the Ladies' Auxiliary, while the firemen donated hot dogs and soda. Cheers for our clean-up crew!

As of this writing (May 30th), we have had days on end of ceaseless, torrential rains. Hop Brook, gray-brown, flashes by angrily. In some places, topping its banks, it would seem to negate the firemen's request for dredging the brook for more water behind the town hall! In an effort to protect the machinery in the town shed, a sand-bank was erected as the waters of the brook crept up. For a spell the firemen were kept busy pumping out cellars and keeping an eye out for possible catastrophes which might occur as a result of flooding. (And let's not forget that they're Volunteers!)

Sue Choquette has asked us to include the following notice: "CHILDREN, YOU ARE INVITED to the ALL NEW GOLDEN HOUR! Once again, the Golden Hour will be presented each Friday morning from 10:00 to 12:00, July 20 through August 24. This year, though, the theme of evangelism will be presented through the all new SHARE FAIR, intended to draw the children to worship and praise, activity and games, and sharing of the good news about God's love through Christ. This theme will be emphasized in the five center areas of the Share Fair: Grace Grandstand, First Fruits Stand, the Blessings Booth, Tent of Thanks, and the Hall of Faith. All children ages three years through 6th grade are sure to react enthusiastically to this innovative and exciting approach to the Gospel. For more information, or if you are interested in being a Share Fair Guide, please call Sue Choquette (243-3645)."

The Younger Set:--There must have been a Baby Boom. The following young people graduated from the Lee High School: Michael Carlson, son of Henning and Joyce Carlson. (Michael was a recipient of the Hop Brook Scholarship Award; he plans to enter Western New England College in Springfield where he will major in engineering.) Beth Curtin, daughter of Terrence and Marilyn Curtin; Adam Fennelly, son of Edward and Diane Fennelly; the Havill twins, Sharon and Sheri, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Havill; William Kickery; Stephen McBrian, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay McBrian of Goose Pond (who intends to matriculate at Plymouth College of the University of New Hampshire, majoring in music); and Marjorie Slater, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Slater. Marjorie, the other recipient of the HBC Scholarship Award, also has been elected to the National

Honor Society. She will enter Westfield State College, where she will major in computer and information science.

A graduate of St. Joseph's High School, Stephen Caseley, son of James Caseley and stepson of Sheila Anderson Caseley, will enter the University of Dallas at Irving, TX, and plans to major in drama. Eric Schnell, son of summer residents Eugene and Ina Schnell, is graduating from Phillips Academy at Andover, and will matriculate in the University of California at Berkeley. Eric plans to major in history and archaeology. Charles Truax, son of summer resident Mrs. George Kramer and the late Rudd H. Truax, will graduate from Milton Academy, and subsequently attend Hamilton College at Clinton NY. Martin and Edwin Rambusch, twin sons of summer sojourners Viggo and Catha Rambusch, will graduate from Trinity School in New York City--where they were co-captains of the lacrosse team. Martin will hie himself to Tulane University in New Orleans and Edward will be off to Bates College in Maine. Their elder sister, Kristin, who graduated from Beloit (WS) College in 1982, has just finished a two-year course at St. Vincent's Nursing School in Greenwich Village, and has received a graduate degree in nursing. Randy Cernik, a 1983 Hop Brook Club scholarship awardee, has been on the Dean's List at Berkshire Community College. In September Randy will transfer to UMass to work toward his B.S. in Chemical Engineering. Jennifer Darey, daughter of Francis and Holley Darey, graduated from Bay Path Junior College in Longmeadow. She completed the paralegal course and is now a legal assistant.

A signal honor has befallen Amy Fennelly, daughter of Everett and Mary Ann Fennelly. A 1981 graduate of Lee High School, she has worked at a number of jobs in the interim. Recently she has been taking courses in art at night at UMass in Amherst. She applied for entrance to the college this fall, sending in a portfolio of her art work. This was judged to be of such excellence that Amy was awarded a four-year, tuition-paid scholarship to the college. Such an achievement is something of which she and her family may be justly proud. And so--congratulations and good luck to all our graduates!

Department of Utter Trivia:--From Modern Maturity: "The personnel director received a government form to fill out with this instruction: 'List the names and addresses of all employees broken down by sex.' The director wrote: 'None. Our problem is absenteeism.'".....From Bits & Pieces: "One of the best ways to lose a friend is to tell him something for his own good."

JULIA REBER

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB

The Hop Brook Community Club has had its regular meetings and lunches to make arrangements for the spring and summer. The plan to help raise money for printing Volume I of the Town Records has had to be postponed because of the great difficulty experienced by the typist in transcribing the record. We were able, however, to present one benefit for our Scholarship Fund. On May 12th, Blaine and Penelope Littell gave an illustrated talk on their safari to Kenya to see the wild animals. In spite of tornado warnings, we had a large enthusiastic audience, and collected over $400. Reese Palmer has promised to repeat his talk on his bicycle trip across the continent, and we are making some interesting plans for the children of the town during the summer.

MILLICENT McINTOSH, Secretary

THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE

One of the most photographed buildings in Berkshire County is the Tyringham Art Gallery, which is widely known as the "Gingerbread House." As it now stands it is the creation of Henry Hudson Kitson, a sculptor in the classic manner and a certified eccentric. Best known for commemorative statues--the Minutemen at Lexington and Framingham--Kitson's masterpiece may well be his fanciful studio.

When he acquired the property in the 1930s, it was a barn, plain and simple. But Kitson let his imagination run freely. Over a three-year period thousands of rocks were imported, some of them volcanic, which were used structurally as well as decoratively. The huge undulating roof, estimated to weigh 80 tons, is supported by heavy chestnut beams and concrete footings. Instead of the thatch he wanted, Kitson had to settle for a roof made of composition shingle many layers thick to simulate the Berkshire Hills in autumn. Near one end, in a sly touch, he designed a witch's face. The place was certainly meant for his own pleasure since Kitson planted a heavy brush fence to insure his privacy. Henry Hudson Kitson was a recluse and, when he died in 1947, penniless.

Enter Ann and Donald Davis. After Don's discharge from the Army Air Force, they found suburbia crowded and expensive, yearned for the country and a new life. One day they happened upon the "Gingerbread House" which was in a sorry state of disrepair, cluttered with plaster casts and smelling strongly of modeling clay. Then and there Don decided that he had to have it. Ann recalls his looking at her, head nodding, asking, "You like it, don't you?" A week later they made a down payment.

But it was to be a year before they could take possession. Ann found that she was carrying their first son, Donald, and the move had to wait. The seventh daughter of a seventh daughter, she quit her job as a hair stylist for Charles of the Ritz, an occupating that involved managing shops around the country. Don stayed on as a reporter for the Yonkers Herald-Statesman.

In September 1948 they arrived in Tyringham with a four-month-old son, $200 in the bank, no job and a spirit of adventure. In a month they virtually rebuilt the kitchen, ridding it of its iron sink and dripping iron pipes, and made the living room of the early 19th century house livable. The basic restoration would take a year, but Don could not give it his full time. He needed a job and quickly found one at General Electric which was planning an engineering publication. He eventually was in charge of all GE's publications until he retired in 1969.

The Davises had never intended to merely live in Tyringham. Music, dance and theatre were well represented in the area. But there was no commercial art gallery. It was that niche they were determined to fill. Don was brought up in an artistic atmosphere--his grandfather was an impresario, his great-uncle a leading light at the Metropolitan Opera, his mother an actress who played with Max Reinhardt--and he studied at the famous Art Students' League. By 1952 they had remodeled and redecorated the house (Kitson had painted all the rooms but two a deep blue splashed with gold), torn away vines bent on strangling the buildings, bulldozed the thick growth in front of the house, and carted nine truckloads of junk and deteriorating plaster to the dump.

Except for $2,000 worth of construction on the studio that he couldn't do himself, Don and a friend from GE spent about nine months refurbishing the building. Don also had been busy publicizing the Tyringham Art Gallery. Some 1,200 people showed up on opening day, another 1,600 jammed the gallery the following day. By this time the Davises had acquired about 400 paintings--some from area artists who also showed in Boston and New York City, some from "Sunday painters," others from New York galleries which consigned them because their business was light during the summer--and their first effort got a good press.

The first sale was an oil by Harry Lane for $200. Attendance that summer averaged about 2,000 people a week and 60 oils, drawings and lithographs were sold in addition to about $1,000 worth of ceramics. There were 17 one-man shows of paintings, one of sculpture. In all, almost 200 artists showed over 1,200 paintings. The Berkshire Eagle called it "a shot in the arm for the Berkshires."

While the business continued to evolve Don was working full time and son Gary had joined the family, keeping Ann busy with two children as well as her part in running the gallery. But the Davises never lacked for ideas to expand the business. By the late 1950s it had caught on so well that Norman Rockwell, who was taking a course in fine art, showed 20 of his portraits. The 1960s were particularly active. They began a series of three auctions a summer (last year revived on a reduced basis), began reclaiming the grounds behind the house as an outdoor sculpture garden, and began to concentrate heavily on prints using Don's collection as the seed. Late in the 1960s the Voice of America interviewed Don and beamed the story of the work and success of two Americans around the world.

In 1969 Don retired from GE. He could now indulge his passion for nature. There was more time to hike and photograph flora and fauna. Never one to be idle, he is currently writing a book on nature in his "spare time." By 1973 the Davises felt they had earned a winter away from the business and began what has become an annual stay in Spain's Costa del Sol. Three years ago they renovated what had been a smaller Kitson studio (which they had briefly used as an antique shop) into a house for themselves. Son Gary, his wife Sharon and their two children moved into the larger house. Gary, now part-time co-director of the gallery, works at GE.

Running a business in a place which is also a tourist attraction has its trying moments. The Davises are grateful for occasional light moments. One is well remembered from their early years. A tourist from Brooklyn, Don recalls, "took in the studio with one long unbelieving stare, carefully pulled up his pants leg, placed one foot deliberately on a rock, stuck his hands in his pockets, cast a skeptical eye at the studio and then at me and said softly: 'Okay, bud, <u>okay</u>! So what's the story?'"

Says Don: "If I had to do it over again, I'd do it over again."

--ELIZABETH SPENCER

Tyringham Topics

Autumn + Winter 1984

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

REPORTERS: JULIA REBER MILLICENT MCINTOSH SUSAN CHOQUETTE

There is almost nothing in this world so wasteful of time as being sick. One's carefully nurtured plans go out the window. One feels ill-used; the innocent target of a malign Fate. Any "bug," virus, or germ just naturally gravitates in my direction as do iron filings toward a magnet. My two ailing, wasted weeks (given over mostly to a feverishly poignant introspection of prior sins--both of omission and commission--resulted in the lateness of this issue of TOPICS. And now, to borrow a leaf from the weekly Penny Saver, "I wish to thank all my kind neighbors for the many errands they undertook in order to keep the Reber life-support system functioning: The cans, the cartons, the home-cooked delicacies, the packages, the bottles (medicine), the mail; the prayers of the Misses Nicole and Alexis Brown; the lovely hand-made card from Jon Clark. All are deeply appreciated." What a blessing it is to live in a small village.

And without further ado, your four reporters--Milly McIntosh, Liz Spencer, Sue Choquette and Judy Reber--wish everyone

A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*** *** *** ***

And may the blessing of God be also on this

HANUKKAH SEASON

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Births:--To Peter and Gail (Wigutow) Charpentier of Orchard House, on February 1, 1984, a daughter, Elisabeth Marie Charpentier. The maternal grandparents are Ethel and Jack Wigutow of Florida, and the paternal grandparents are Edith and Edward Charpentier of New York City.... To Eugene and Nancy Curtin of Mt. Airy, Md., on August 22, 1984, a son, Scott Francis. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith of Lenox, and the paternal grandparents are Mary Curtin and the late Carl Curtin.... To Michael and Kerry (Clark) Sullivan of Pittsfield, a daughter, Kelly Helen, on September 6, 1984. The maternal grandparents are Irma Clark and the late Wilbur (Duffy) Clark of our town. The paternal grandparents are Robert Sullivan and the late Helen Sullivan of Pittsfield.

Deaths:--Mrs. Francesca de Kay Gilder Palmer, 95, of New York City and Four Brooks Farm, Tyringham, died on June 28, 1984, after a long illness. To all her family we extend sincerest sympathy.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--On July 20, 1984, Debra Ann Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller Jr. of Lee, was wed to Samuel Walter Slater, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Slater of Tyringham. The Rev. Howard McCormack of St. Mary's Church, Lee, officiated at the ceremony.... The marriage of Everett R. Fennelly to Mary Beth Decker took place on August 5, 1984, at St. Mary's Church in Lee, with Father John Bouzani officiating. Everett is the son of Everett F. and Mary Ann Fennelly of Tyringham, and Mary Beth is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Decker of Lee. On September 8, 1984, Kristin Rambusch, daughter of Viggo and Catha Rambusch of New York City and Tyringham, became the bride of Alexander Carnaby von Thelen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander J. von Thelen of Charlottesville, Va. Msgr. James G. Wilders performed the Roman Catholic ceremony at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine in Manhattan.

At the other end of the spectrum (this deserves a special paragraph!), and at a remove of half a century, Dick and Georgia Birkett celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Like the young von Thelens, the Birketts too were married on September 8 back in 1934. With family, old friends and townspeople joining in, and with tables groaning with delicious food, a merry time was had by all as we helped Dick and Georgia celebrate this auspicious (not too often achieved) occasion in the Tyringham Town Hall.

On October 6, 1984, the wedding of William Winters of Lee and Rhonda Herman of Otis took place in the Lee Congregational Church, with the Rev. Edward Marcus officiating. Rhonda is the daughter of Mrs. Charles Loring Jr. of Otis and Mr. Ronald Herman of Holcomb, N. Y. William is the son of William H. Winters of Lee, and the late Josephine Winters.... Jeannette van Ballegooyen and Michael Gary McCullough of Tyringham were married on November 11, 1984, at the home of the groom's mother in Pittsfield. Jeannette is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willem van Ballegooyen of Gorinchem, Holland, and Michael is the son of Mrs. Evelyn McCullough and the late Frederick McCullough.

All Around the Town:--We must begin this section with an apology. In our last issue we went on at great length about the current and previous graduates of Lee High School. But did we remember Barbara Van Orman? No. To Barbara, daughter of Gordon and Kate Van Orman, we extend sincere apologies for this lamentable omission. She graduated with a B.S. degree, cum laude in chemistry, from Hartwick College in Oneonta, N. Y. Barbara is now employed as a chemist for the Ayers Pharmaceutical Company at Rouses Point, N. Y., which position she thoroughly enjoys.

At a recent meeting of the Valley Club, the following officers were elected: President, Barbara Adams; Vice President, Irma Clark; Treasurer, Betty Cernik; Secretary, Dot Choquette. Barbara tells us that the Flea Market, held last summer at the Firemen's Pavillion, was a huge success. also, as has been their custom for a number of years, the club planted and maintained the circular plot in front of the post office with lovely flowers--as eye-catching as ever. We are grateful for this touch of beauty.

The Ladies' Auxiliary met recently and the following officers were elected: President, Joyce Carlson (243-1897); Vice President, Evelyn Winters (243-0463); Secretary, Kathy Curtin (243-3238); and Treasurer, Sissy Curtin (243-2999). Joyce asked us to again stress that in cases of outages and other winter crises, there should

be no hesitation in calling any of the above officers. The firehouse, as usual, is stocked with the necessities, and is prepared to cope. At this point, Joyce asked us to announce that the CHRISTMAS PARTY for the children of the town will be on December 21st, at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Parents, please bring whatever presents you wish your children to receive.

In June the Church had its annual Strawberry Supper, which was its usual delicious success. Maggie Curtin, Mary Ann Fennelly and a host of helpers served an excellent spread. Maggie wants especially to extend her thanks to all the townspeople for making this supper the success it was. We would like to mention at this point that the new covers on the pew cushions in the Church were paid for as the direct result of the proceeds from seven suppers put on by Maggie & Co. A heroic undertaking, since the cover material was very expensive.

On August 4th the Tyringham Volunteer Fire Co. had its annual Steak Roast and Dance at the firemen's pavillion on the Main Road. The place was thronged with people--many from outside Tyringham; the food splendid as usual; and a good time was had by all.... On this day also was held the Annual Tyringham Cobble Race. Many participated in the lesser races, and in the five-mile race Tonio Palmer of Tyringham came in twenty-second; his time was 33:32. This race is a tough one. We trust that scads of money came into the coffers for the preservation and maintenance of the Cobble.

Brian Urquhart, Tyringham summer resident and Undersecretary General of the United Nations, was selected last June for a 1984 Roosevelt Freedom Medal by the Four Freedoms Foundation of Washington, and the Eleanor Roosevelt Centennial Commission. This is indeed a rare and richly deserved tribute to a man who has worked indefatigably in overseas U.N. peace-keeping operations in the Middle East and elsewhere. We're proud of you, Brian!

Toodie Alsop, Tyringham painter, has had two exhibits recently: one in June at the Berkshire Artisans Gallery in Pittsfield, and the second at the Welles Gallery, Lenox Library, in October. Toodie has an unerring eye for color and color combinations, and her works--landscapes, portraits and interiors--are arresting in content and execution.

Actor Bill Roerick, with 49 years "on the boards" to his credit, also achieved another milestone in a busy career on the stage. Years ago he appeared as the son in "Sabrina Fair" at the old Berkshire Playhouse in Stockbridge. This past June, at the rechristened Berkshire Theatre Festival, he returned in the role of the father in the same play. This was his fiftieth role. This may not be unique in theater annals, but surely it is unusual enough to merit comment. Bill received excellent reviews on this latter performance; we congratulate him for this--and for his staying powers too!

Jennifer Bishop, youngest daughter of Katharine McLennan, is a free-lance photographer in Baltimore, Md. During the week before the recent national election, Jennifer was given an assignment at the White House in Washington. Her subject was none other than President Reagan himself. While Jennifer was busy photographing our head of State in the Oval Office, a White House photographer was just as busy snapping Jennifer as she went about this impressive job of work. Congratulations, Jennifer! Now you'll have something to "show and tell" your children and grandchildren.

As was the case in 1982, the Massachusetts Municipal Association has again awarded

first place to Tyringham for its annual town report. The category is for towns of 999 residents or less. Much praise is due Peter and Joyce Eberth, of the Main Road, owners of Visual Arts Inc., Lee. They designed the report.

Tyringham author George Gilder has just had his latest book published--The Spirit of Enterprise. We trust that this volume will achieve the success of its predecessor, Wealth and Poverty, which enjoyed great popularity several years ago.

The Berkshire County Chapter of the American Red Cross has informed us that as the result of the spring drive, Tyringham has given more than it ever has in the past. Only Richmond surpassed us, and we console ourselves with the fact that it is a much larger town. Our thanks to everyone who donated to the cause of this worthy organization.

During an afternoon in late October there came to various doorways a sinister collection of individuals--none of them very tall. Pirates of evil aspect, witches of ghastly mien; spacemen, angelic angels--and the childish treble of "Trick or Treat!" rang out on the autumn air. It was a beautiful Indian summer day for this ancient celebration. The Ladies' Auxiliary, the Valley and Hop Brook Clubs donated prizes for the costumes; the Selectmen donated doughnuts; and Gilly Palmer manned the hay-wagon (tractor), making stops at various homes. Joe Whalen had the best of intentions, but couldn't get the second tractor started. Never mind, Joe; we know your heart was in the right place.

On November 17th the Church had a Thanksgiving Bake Sale in the town hall, the proceeds of which totaled $340. A lot of hard work that paid off.

Department of Utter Trivia:--From Modern Maturity: "'Captain, there's a personal message to you from the admiral,' reported the communications officer. 'Well, read it to me.' The officer read: 'Of all the blundering, stupid, dim-witted idiots, you take the cake.' 'Have that decoded at once!' demanded the captain...." From Mark Twain: "Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example."

--JULIA REBER

GOLDEN HOUR NEWS: The all new GOLDEN HOUR SHARE FAIR saw to completion 5 weeks of a most enjoyable and novel presentation of the Gospel to our Tyringham children. Despite the fact that all but one teacher would be vacationing for one or two weeks, and a one-week interruption for the annual swimming lessons at Tyringham pond, not to mention the terribly great and permanent loss of Barbara Van Orman to a new job in Rouses Point, N. Y., the show did go on! Tremendous thanks and appreciation go to Marilyn Fennelly, Catherine Fennelly, JoAnn Kulberg, MaryAnn Brown, Ruth LeCompte, Nini Gilder, Barbara Van Orman, and Margie Slater, who not only gave of their time on Friday mornings, but also committed themselves to weekly meetings for the duration of the program plus many hours of their own time for lesson preparation. Eighteen children attended the Share Fair to learn the story of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the various booths of the Fair: Tent of Thanks, Hall of Faith, First Fruits Stand, Blessings Booth, and Grace Grandstand. The emphasis of each booth was sharing the gospel, and as an all-school sharing project. A food basket and clothing collection, as well as the offering collected for the 5 weeks, was given to the Christian Center in Pittsfield.

The GOLDEN HOUR ended not with the traditional picnic, but with the all-school SHARE FAIR where parents and friends joined us to hear a sample of songs and stories, share some good treats from the various booths, and admire shadow portraits, sand candles, and various other crafty projects made by the children. The program was under the direction of Sue Choquette.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: Sunday School commenced classes the first Sunday in October with special Rally Day activities. Classes are held for children ages 2 years through 6th grade, and all Tyringham children and friends are encouraged and invited to attend. A special Christmas presentation and Chris-mon service will be held on Dec. 23 at the 11 o'clock service. All are cordially invited to attend and share this special time with us!

--SUE CHOQUETTE

CHURCH NEWS: Peter Kulberg was called to be pastor of the Union Church on October 9, 1983. Because his training was as a Biblical scholar rather than that of a minister, it was agreed that either he or the Church could terminate his appointment at the end of a year. At a meeting of Church members in September, it was voted to end Peter's appointment in October. Since that time we have been fortunate in having helpful supply ministers while we are looking for a new pastor.

Millicent McIntosh, Clerk of the Church

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB

Since June we have been chiefly concerned with building up our scholarship fund. Our original plan was to consider only candidates from the graduating class of the Lee High School. This spring, however, an application from Amy Fennelly caused us to reconsider this policy, and to award her a special scholarship of $500, $300 of which was raised by Carolyn Canon's selling shares on a quilt she had made. We also voted to raise our other two scholarships from $400 to $500.

In September we sponsored a lecture by New York University Professor Jonathan Brown (Jean's son): "El Greco, a New Interpretation," for the benefit of the Hop Brook Scholarship Fund. We sold ads for the program and had a capacity audience, so that we cleared about $1600. In October, Reese Palmer, on popular demand, gave again his illustrated talk on his bicycle trip to California. We had a delightful evening reliving this experience with him, and talking with him afterwards. The free will offering went toward Parsonage repairs.

Millicent McIntosh (Secretary)

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS, 1984

Stet and Barbara Adams
Robert and Toodie Alsop and family
Marjorie, Dick Allen and family
Walt and Rosa Alward, Walt Jr. and Heidi
Babbie Barhydt
Roy, Christine, D. C. and Christian Bienvenue
Elizabeth T. Billington
Richard Billington
Richard and Georgia Birkett
Gladys Bishop (Mrs. Warner B. Bishop Sr. - granddaughters Susan, Judith, Kathryn Stella, and Jennifer Bishop (daughters of Mrs. John McLennan); great-granddaughters Rachel Uchital and Maia Bookoff
Barbara and Norbert Bogdan
Teresa, Tricia and Rodney Bragdon
Bob, Mary Ann, Nicole and Alexis Brown
Jean Brown and family
Robert Brown; Jonathan, Sandra, Clair, Michael and Daniel Brown family
Jacob and Irmgard Bucher
Carolyn Canon
Nort, Eleanor and Jennifer Canon
John and Marie Cannon and boys
Carolyn Carlson
In memory of Henning M. Carlson
In memory of James S. Clark and family
Henning, Joyce, Michael and Kimberly Carlson
Virginia Carruthers; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moran and Conor
All the Cerniks
Bob and Sue Choquette, Aubrey and Noah
Harvey and Dot Choquette
Chuck, Terry, David, Jon and Kevin Clark
Frank and Betty Clark and family
In memory of Mr. Wilbur Clark Sr.
In memory of Carrie Clark
In memory of Robert K. Clark
In memory of "Butch" Clark

Irma Clark
In memory of "Duffy" Clark
Maria Cole, Timolin, Casey, and Kelly Cole
Thomas Coley
Mrs. Franklin Couch
Edward Coyne
Player and Bobbie Crosby; Jay and Kit Crosby, Eric and Peter Bruun; Marge Currie; Chris Munro; Althea Cooper; Heather Marie Currie
Agnes B. Curtin
Carl, Chris, Christine and Larry Curtin
Gene and Nancy Curtin, Kevin, Gene and Scott
Mary Curtin
Neil, Helen, Mary and Gerry Curtin
Tommy and Maggie Curtin
Holly, Putt and Jennifer Darey
Donald and Ann Davis and family
Ruth and Norman Day
Harry Ellis Dickson and family - Dr. Alfred and Jinny Peters; Gov. Michael and Kitty Dukakis
Deac and Eleanor Dodge and family
Alice and Alison Donald
Penelope Borax and John Donald, and David
Gerry and Donna Drake and family
Robert and Ruth DuVernois and son Jim
Robert, Josiane and Michael DuVernois and Cecile Ford
Arthur and Jane Dyer
Bill and Connie Dyer
Dr. and Mrs. Louis Eisenberg and family
Clint and Varney Elliott, Susannah, Alex and Rosy
James and Beverly Dyer Elsensohn, Eric and Heidi
Jim Eugénie Fawcett, John, Donald, Nan and James
Bill, Marilyn, Parker and Cathy Fennelly
Eddie, Dianne, Adam, Darrell and Pat Fennelly
Tom Fennelly
Jerry Floyd Fenton and Caryn I. Schulz
Michael and Dawn Fredette
Allan, Mary, Nancy, David, Lisa and Levi Garner
Marian Gelsleichter
Honora Gifford
George and Nini Gilder, Louisa, Mellie and Richard
Rod and Mellie, David and Cindy, Joshua Gilder
Rosamond Gilder
Elizabeth Gilmore
In memory of Arthur Gilmore Sr.
In memory of Arthur Gilmore Jr.
Ruth Goldmuntz, susan Goldmuntz, Michael Goldmuntz and David Goldmuntz
Alice Hale
In memory of loved ones
Arnold Hale
Don and Mary Hale
In loving memory of Elizabeth Loring Hale

Elizabeth J. Hale
"The Santonastasis"
Charles and Judith Hauer
Arnold and Sandy, Cathy and Suzie Hayne
Cortland and Anna Heath
Lilja Henrichsen and Joseph Rizzo
(Rocky) John and Eleanor Hoag
John and Lucy Holloway
Sarah Hudson
Ken, Berta, Kenny and Linda Jones
Al, Martha, Jason and Allison Joyner
Fred and Phyllis Judd
In memory of Eloise Myers
In memory of Beulah Cannon
Wil, Mary D., Plum, and Nick Kierstead
Grace Knickerbocker
George and Betty Kramer; Alice, Hawley and
Charles Truax
Allen Kraszeski
Lois and Lucyan Kraszeski, Jon and Nancy
Doug and Marion Leach
Steven, Ruth, Erin and Shannon Le Compte
Lucca, Eugene, Andreas, Mary, Adam and Sven
Lehner
Bruce Logan
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Logan
Beatrice Loring
Dot and Dick Loring, and Rick; Ed and Carol and
family; and Deby, Kevin, Amy, and Ashly Hunt
Olive Loring
Russell and Margaret Loring
Tunk, Dede, Chuck and Tony Loring; Ed and Elaine
(Loring) Arnold; Billy and Rhonda (Herman)
Winters
Margaret, Barrie, Alex, Charles and James Luchars
W. Merritt and Marylou McBrian
Dylan, Jeannette and Michael McCullough
Rustin and Millicent McIntosh; Jim, Carey, Sue,
Ken, and Dick
Katharine and John McLennan and family
A. A. Miller family: Ted, Helena, Rod, Gabriel,
Judy, Steve, Tess, Nadia, Amasa, Mirella,
Elisa, Ginny and Molly
Anne and Chris Moffett, Jonathan, Sam and Sarah
Roy and Polly Perkins Montgomery
Marie Moore
Jim and Ruth Morse
The Moskin family
Lynn Goldberg
In memory of Paula Mattlin
Dick, Marilyn, Joshua, Jesse and Jonathan O'Hara
Anne, Gilder and Reese Palmer
Helena, Tonio and Kay Palmer
Walter Palmer - A. Spring Palmer
John and Hylie Pappenheimer and family

Ned and Petey Perkins and family
Jesse Pierce
In memory of Helen Butler
Mrs. Phillips W. Pursell
Viggo and Catha, Edwin, Martin and Lucia Rambusch; Kristin and Alexander von Thelen
David Rauch
Fred, Tootie, Jim and Sarah Read
Judy and Peggy Reber
Margaret Rector; Susan Rector Barkin
Carin Revander
Dorothea Reynolds
Martha D. Robb; Guy I. Robb; Dianne Robb Nelson
Morton and Libby Saks and family
Dr. J. A. Salzmann
Eugene, Ina, and Eric Schnell
Charlie, Liz and Marge Slater
Chuck, Alice, April and Ryan Slater
Grace Slater
Sam and Debbie Slater
Betty Clark Smith
Mary and Gene Smith
Liz Spencer
Bob and Lisa Stanton, Stacey and Shaun
Tom and Helen Stephens, Mark and Laura
Jo Stott
Ruth and Gerald Swart
Lois Olds Swift
Alice S. Thain
Blanche and Bill Thober
Rev. Vesta Thompson
Joy and Asher Treat
Mrs. R. Hawley Truax
Helen and Eddie Twing
Jerry, Toni and Nancy Twing
Brian and Sidney Urquhart, Rachel and Charles Urquhart; Thomas Canfield
Gordon, Kate and Barbara Van Orman
Barbara and Deric Washburn, Jennifer and Stephanie
Emily B. Welch
Joe, Marion and Denny Whalen
Bert, Karen, Keith, Timmy and Chad Williams
Evelyn Winters
In memory of Michael Winters
Lillian, Michael, James, Troy, Patrick and Melissa Winters
In memory of Kenneth (Red) Winters

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

SPRING AND SUMMER 1985

REPORTERS: JULIA REBER - MILLICENT McINTOSH - ELIZABETH SPENCER - SUSAN CHOQUETTE

It wes a once-in-e-lifetime happening. Three of our Tyringham lads, David Clark, Jimi Curtin, and Darrell Fennelly, as members of the Lee High School hockey team, took off on e flying tryp for an eleven-day tour of the countries of Finland and Russia. The tour, called "Friendship '85," was the result of many factors, not the least of which was that the taam's coach, Paul E. Porter of Lee, is a man of daring, anergy and imeginetion. Among businesses, clubs, individuals and others, $20,000 was raised to finence the journay. Before their flight, the team was given formal send-offs in Boston by the Senate, the House, and Governor Michael Dukakis. Upon their return, Congressman Silvio Conte, at a banquet in Lee, tendered the team a handsome tribute for their hands-across-the-sae effort. The local parents who accompanied the team were Chuck and Tarry Clerk and Kathy and Jim Curtin.

Two gemes were played--and lost--in Russia. However, our boys were pitted against a numbar of Soviet pleyers who were practically of Olympic calibre. Two other games in Leningrad were cancaled dua to over-crowded schedules of the host city. In one of the Moscow gemes, fiva mambars of the Lee team exchanged uniforms with five on the Russian teem, and Jimi Curtin then proceaded to make a goal for the "Moscow team!" What a graat moment that must heve been. It ended up with the Lee team giving their uniform jerseys to the members of tha Moscow team, much to the latter's joy. Of the two games pleyed in Finland, our taam won one and lost one.

David, Jimi and Darrall were quite impressed with the Finnish people, many of whom spoka English, as opposed to the Russians who spoke very little. David didn't care too much for the foreign food, and said that the hotels in Moscow left something to be desirad, but thet in Leningrad they wara very good. Darrell opined that the buildings in Moscow were old end not very well maintained. However, the Russians were friendly end were anxious to be of help. The team did a lot of touring by bus, where the tour guides spoke very good English. Jimi also amphasized the fact that the Russians were a friendly people, and that it was a trip he would never forget.

And so they raturnad to Tyringham, thesa lads and their parents--ambassadors of good will to a country so different from their own--exhausted, but exuberant. What a tale for their children and grandchildren!

We would like to welcome into our midst Paul and Teri D'Angona, who moved into the Tyringham Union Church parsonage on the first of June, at which time Paul became pastor of our church. Peul was born and reared in Worcester. He graduated from Berkshire

Christian College in 1976 with a B.A. degree in Theology. From 1980 to 1983, he studied at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philedelphie, eerning e Mester of Arts degree in Religion. Paul has completed ell but his thesis for an M.A. in Theology. For a year he worked as Director of Admissions at Berkshire Christian College. He is married to the former Teri Jane Noren end they have one son, Nethen, age two end a half years. Teri has a part-time position at the Cameron Elementary School in Lenox, where she teeches children with learning difficulties. Her hometown is Weterbury, Conn. She has a B.A. in Theology from Berkshire Christian College. Mey Paul and Teri end Nathen enjoy the valley and its people!

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY--VERY IMPORTANT!!! Not so very long ego the fate of our Tyringham Community Post Office hung by a hair. The Postel Powers That Be decreed thet if our good-netured Postmaster, Irma Clark, did not sell more stamps, we would lose our designation of C.P.O. We then would find ourselves with meilboxes by the sida of tha roed, and the postmark "Tyringhem" would be e thing of the pest. Do we went this? Never! Then, PLEASE buy your stamps from Irma and let her handle your other postal needs too. We thank you.

Births:--None listed in our usual source of informetion, the Barkshira Eagla.

Deeths:--Penelope Platt Littell, former summer resident and wife of Welter Littell, died on December 1, 1984. We tender sincerest condolences to her family.... Mrs. Elizabeth Gilmore, long-time resident of Tyringham, but more recently of Meedow Place in Lenox, died on March 1, 1985, at the age of 101. In her time, she was en indefatigable worker for the Tyringham Church. Our condolences to her meny descendents.... Heartfelt sympathy also to Helena Gilder Miller end her femily. Helena's husbend, Alfred Amasa Miller, died on April 19, 1985.... Mrs. Ann Bernherdsgruetter, a recent summer resident of Fernside, and mother of Mrs. Jacob Bucher, died on Mey 17, 1985, in White Plains, N. Y. Our sincerest condolences to the Bucher family.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--On June 8, 1985, in the Congregationel Church in Otis, Christine Ann Rowley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Rowley of Otis, was marriad to Randy Jay Cernik, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Cernik of Tyringhem. The Rev. John Stowell of the Monterey Congregational Church officiated at the ceremony.

All Around the Town:--On Wednesdey, January 30, 1985, the congregetion of the Union Church in Tyringham met and elected the following officers: Charles E. Sleter, Moderator; Millicent McIntosh, Clerk; Robert Brown, Treasurer; Robert Choquette, Deacon; Helen Curtin, Deaconess; Julia Reber, Member-at-Lerge; Rustin McIntosh, Auditor; Kenneth Jones, Trustee; Frank W. Thober, Finance Committee; Susen Choquette, Sunday School Superintendent.

On May 14, 1985, the town voters met to epprove the budget for the fiscel yeer 1986. At that time a plaque was presented by head selectman Peter Curtin to Betty Cernik, honoring her for her excellent work as Collector of Texes for the pest 25 years. After the meeting a gathering of har friends joined to congratulete Betty, end to pertake of punch and innumerable tasty things to eat.

On May 20, 1985, 39 percent of the town's voters turned out end elactad the following officers: Charles E. Slater, Moderator; Peter L. Curtin, Selectman; Deanne Curtin, Cemetery Trustee; Mary C. Garner, Librery Trustee; Susan Liebenow, Tex Collector; Stephen Baluk, Assessor; Janice Curtin, School Committee; Steven Adams, Perk Commissioner; Auditor (vacant).

In March of this year the American Academy of Arts and Letters awarded $85,000 in prize money to 14 American composers and one performing group. Composer John S. McClannan of Ashintully Farm was ona of tha 1985 music awards winners. John's music includas dance, orchastral, and choral works; and Canterbury Cathedral in England already has two of his works in its permanent repertory. Congratulations, John!

On February 17, 1985, a large contingant of the townspeople forgathered in the Town Hall to honor Bruce Logan with a suparlative lunch. Bruce has left us for a new life and a new job in San Antonio, Texas. For many years he was a town employee, and wa can still almost hear the clank of metal on metal as Bruce lowered the flag each evening. Good luck to you in your new environment, Bruce.

After doing a 12-year stint as librarian of the Tyringham Public Library, Irma Clark is rasigning at the end of June. Our thanks to Irma for all the patience and chearfulnass sha displayed in this job. We understand that Janice (Sissie) Curtin is taking Irma's place. Good luck to you, Sissie.

On Sunday, May 25, 1985, the Tyringham Annual Ten-mile Road Race was run to benefit the Tyringham Fire Company and the Special Olympics of Berkshire County. The lattar race, a 100-yard dash, was won in 13 seconds by Glenn Cunningham, a student at the High Point School in Lenox. The 10-miler was handily won by Rob Colantuono of North Adams.

The Youngar Set:--As opposed to last yaar's eight, only two of Tyringham's young people graduated from Lee High School this year: Jimi Curtin, son of Jim and Kathy Curtin, and Timothy Blair, son of Sue Blair Heath.... Donald Fawcett, son of Jim and Eugenie Fawcett of Fernside, graduated from the Brooks School in North Andover. He will enter Harvard, where he plans to study the classics and hopes to row on the Harvard crew.... Nicholas Kierstead, son of Wil and Mary D. Kierstead of Fernside, graduated from Milton Acadamy in Milton. He will matriculate at Johns Hopkins.... Kim Littell, son of Blaine and Penalopa Littell, graduated from Buckingham Brown and Nichols in Cambridge.... Charles Urquhart, son of Brian and Sidney Urquhart, graduated from the Westminster School in Simsbury, Conn.... John R. Fawcett, son of Jim and Eugenie Fawcett, graduated from Brown University.... R. Hawley Truax, son of Betty Truax Kramer and tha late R. Hawley Truax, graduated from Amherst College.... Sam Slater, son of Charlie and Elizabeth Slater, graduated from Cornell with a B.A. in Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture. Sam has obtained a position in a bank in Norwich, N. Y.... Rachel Urquhart, daughter of Brian and Sidney Urquhart, graduated from Tufts University cum laude. At this time also, her father, an undersecretary at the United Nations, received an honorary degree.... Peter Bruun, son of Mrs. J. Player Crosby of Farnside, who graduated from Williams College where he majored in Art History, received a $200 award from the Berkshire Art Association. Peter plans to work and travel in the West before entering graduate school.

Marjorie Slater (at Westfield State) and Michael Carlson (at Western New England), the Hop Brook Club's scholarship awardees for 1984, have both been on the Dean's List for two semesters. Good work. (Marjorie has a summer job at the Lee National Bank, and Michael will be working at the family business, Carlson Auto Body, on Route 102.)

Out of the past: We remember them as very small girls in Tyringham: Martha Day and Lisa de Sousa, daughters of Norm and Ruth Day and George and Ruth de Sousa, respectively. Now grown-up young ladies, they have just graduated from Western New England Collega, each with the degree of Juris Doctor (Doctor of Law). Congratulations, Martha and Lisa!

Department of Utter Trivia:--"This is the time of year when many taxpayers feel they have reached the point where they can no longer support the government in the style to which it has become accustomed." ... "Dad," asked the Little Leaguer, "What happens when a ballplayer's eyesight begins to fail?" "They make him an umpire." ... A teacher asked her first-graders what they knew about George Washington. One little girl was eager to share her knowledge: "George Washington was a very bad boy. He chopped down the cherry tree and his father spanked him very hard. And that," she concluded, "is why he stood up in the boat." (Modern Maturity)

--JULIA REBER

GOLDEN HOUR NEWS: The Golden Hour Vacation Bible School will be presented this summer as a five-day VBS program. The children will gather each day, Monday through Friday, for one week from 10 o'clock til 12 noon at Union Church. Tentative dates are July 22 through July 26. Our theme for this summer is GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY. The age-level courses (age 3 years through Grade 6) in this series will explore the climate, the traditions, the words, and the directives for prayer through five themes: Come to God in Prayer, Learn about Prayer, Respond to God's Love and Goodness, Ask for Daily Needs, and Seek God's Will for All People's Needs. Centering around these five themes, the children will participate in Bible stories, art activities, music, and worship. A special feature of the program is the Pathways of Prayer Center. The center offers many special learning activities and opportunities for fellowship in a delightful atmosphere of such centers as Joyful Junction, Peacemaker's Paradise, Butterfly Booth, and the Prayer Patch.

GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY promises to be a unique and important learning opportunity for the children. It aims to provide a learner-centered, fun-filled, and happy occasion for all who participate. More information may be obtained from the director, Sue Choquette. For those interested in teaching, assisting, or helping in any way, please contact the director at 243-3645 as soon as possible, as planning is well under way. The community and friends are invited and enthusiastically encouraged to attend!

--SUSAN CHOQUETTE

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB

The Hop Brook Club has held regular meetings this winter and spring, but has not sponsored any benefits. We decided that the town needs post cards, and asked Peter Eberth to work on new designs of the church, the library, and the schoolhouse. These are now completed, and will be on sale soon. Peter is now working on a new design for our Topics masthead.

We have agreed to help the Historical Commission with the School house problems, and with distributing and financing Volume I of the Town Records as soon as this is printed. We are planning a third "distinguished lecture" in September, and will pick strawberries for the Church Supper on June 26th.

We had no scholarship applicants this year, but are working to establish an endowment fund. We have paid our usual $600 to the Church, and are turning over the proceeds of Reese Palmer's second bicycle talk to pay for the professional cleaning of the carpets and windows in the parsonage.

--MILLICENT McINTOSH, Clerk

ROSAMUND GILDER

Hers is not a name that inspires fans ω whip out their autograph books. But to theater professionals the world over Rosamund Gilder is a person of rare stature. Since 1924, in one guise or another, she has influenced, guided, loved, and promoted one of mankind's greatest means of communication, live theater. As a critic, lecturer, editor, writer, innovator, and administrator, she has left her mark.

Approaching her 94th birthday (she was born July 17, 1891 in Marion, Massachusetts, where her parents then summered) Ros doesn't find it in the least bit odd that she could successfully overcome the then traditional restraints on women working outside the home. "I didn't grow up in an atmosphere where women didn't do things," she says with a chuckle. Her mother, Helena de Kay, was a professional painter who studied with Winslow Homer. The great actress, Eleanora Duse, and the portrait painter, Cecilia Beaux, were her mother's close friends. Her father, Richard Watson Gilder, was a poet and editor of Century magazine, one of the most influential literary and artistic periodicals of the time. The Gilders' Friday evening receptions in New York City were frequented by people active in the arts, many of them women.

A dyed-in-the-wool New Yorker, Ros Gilder nevertheless has fond memories of childhood summers at Four Brooks Farm in Tyringham. Her father bought it in 1897 when she was six, the youngest of seven children. Mornings were spent with lessons overseen by a governess, usually French, and afternoons out of doors in clement weather. Dressed in bloomers (she was "outraged" when she had to wear a dress for company) she raked hay, sat on farmer Herbert Moore's lap as he ran the mower or dump rake, joined friends for donkey races up Breakneck Road. She vividly remembers Mark Twain as a "humorist who never cracked a smile." Her father had published "Huckleberry Finn" in Century, and when Twain's wife died he asked if he could bring his daughters and rent a house in Tyringham. The Grover Clevelands, old friends of her parents, were frequent visitors. In the 1940s, when she needed privacy because Four Brooks was "seething" with people, she built a house up George Canon Road which became known as "Ros's barn." Two years ago she came to live in Tyringham full-time.

After her father died in 1909, Ros Gilder undertook the monumental task of helping her mother organize his voluminous papers and letters. Out of this came her first book, "Letters of Richard Watson Gilder," published in 1916 by Houghton Mifflin Company, for which she wrote biographical and other material. As America prepared to enter World War I, because she was fluent in French, she was hired as an interpreter and secretary to the director of the American Red Cross pediatric mission in Paris. In 1917 she sailed on the Saint Louis for France. The ship was attacked by a German U-boat as it crossed the Atlantic Ocean. Back home in 1919, she began work on "My Life," the autobiography of the great French opera singer, Emma Calvé, a friend of the family, which she both helped to write and translated from the French.

It was in 1924 that a telephone call revolutionized her life. A friend who worked for the magazine Theatre Arts was home with the mumps. Would Ros fill in for her and correct proofs for the current issue? She would—and stayed a quarter of a century, quickly becoming an assistant editor, later drama critic, and finally the magazine's editor. She steeped herself in every aspect of the theater and, thanks to her erudition and judgment, gained a position of authority. Magazine critics are assigned second night seats and at least three nights a week she was in an audience. Beforehand, at her small apartment at 24 Gramercy Park, she would ask a guest for dinner—"steaks, chops, a vegetable. I'm no cook." Among her guests and friends were Tennessee Williams (introduced by a mutual Southern friend and "a really lost soul in New York") and Alec Guiness when he was in New York on duty with the British Navy. (Her father and five friends had built the building shortly before he died; the family maintained a large apartment, and Ros's small one was known as the "honeymoon apartment" because so many in the family began marriages there.)

Thanks to an insatiable appetite for work, Theatre Arts did not occupy all her time even though it involved book reviews, articles, the magazine's book publishing. In 1931 Houghton Mifflin published "Enter the Actress" which is still in print and has been translated into French. "A tremendous labor of research," as one reviewer put it, the book is a scholarly but fluently written history of the beginnings of women in the theater.

Of the six books which she has either written or edited, the most ambitious is "John Gielgud's Hamlet: A Record of Performance", published in 1937 by the Oxford University Press. Gielgud's opening night as Hamlet at the Empire Theatre on October 8, 1936 was an historic event in the theater. Directed by Guthrie McClintic with sets and costumes by Jo Mielziner, the production was hailed and Gielgud's performance brought raves. Ros Gilder was there with her editor John Mason Brown. She had been writing a column for Theatre Arts on great Hamlets and through her research found that critics described their own reactions to an interpretation, but not what the actor actually did. Since the work of art an actor creates when he is in contact with his audience disappears with the performance, Ros wanted to analyze Gielgud's performance and set down her findings juxtaposed against Shakespeare's lines.

As often as she could—perhaps thirty times in all—she attended a performance and used a system she had devised to record what Gielgud did and how he did it. When she knew she could bring off this innovative idea, she went backstage to see him. He encouraged her and gave her his own prompt book. Since she couldn't take notes in the dark theater, she memorized his scene interpretations one at a time and rushed home to write them down. Scene by scene, she showed him her manuscript. He agreed with her observations so consistently that she began to worry that he was being polite, not objective. Once, he disagreed. She insisted that he had played the scene as she wrote. By the next time she saw it he had realized his performance had slipped and had returned to his original concept.

Wisely, her contract called for final approval of the book's production. Shakespeare's text was to be on the left hand side of the page, her analysis in the same type on the right hand side. When she got the galleys her material was in footnote size type, completely negating the point of the book. She refused to approve it. After Oxford reset the type she got a bill for the extra cost. When she called attention to her contract, the publisher realized he had met his match. John Gielgud, with whom she still corresponds, wrote an introduction to this great contribution to the art of the theater.

In 1949, when she left Theatre Arts because she had no respect for its new management, Ros Gilder was 58 and might reasonably have been expected to slow her pace. She accelerated it. Millicent McIntosh asked her to give a lecture series at Barnard College which she did for seven years. Another talent, administration, enabled her to fulfill a dream to bring together theater people from around the world so that they could exchange ideas, discuss problems, and keep current on trends. For many years she had been a member of the American National Theatre and Academy (ANTA), the country's most prestigious theatrical organization and between 1945 and 1968 an officer. In 1947, members of UNESCO passed a resolution to create an international theater organization. For American input UENSCO turned to ANTA. And ANTA turned to Ros Gilder. She was the only American elected to an international committee whose task was to prepare for the first congress of the newly formed International Theatre Institute. By the time the congress was held in Prague in 1948, Ros Gilder had persuaded ANTA that it should assume the responsibility of financing American delegations to ITI congresses. She chaired every American delegation from 1948 to 1975. A colleague sums up her administrative skills: "She knows how to settle differences, to find ways of reconciliation; but she can also, without ever using wounding terms, put an end to ill-timed interruptions and show that she is not taken in by any maneuvers."

Her role in the theater as a "passionate amateur" has not gone unrecognized. No fewer than 16 times she has been the recipient of grants and awards, including Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships for study in Europe. In 1964, her lifelong devotion to the art of the theater was recognized by the French government when she was presented with the cross of an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters of the French Republic.

A recent visitor observed that she was 84 in 1975 when she led the American delegation to the ITI congress in West Berlin, perhaps a bit long in the tooth for such demanding work. With a characteristic smile and chuckle, she shot back: "Oh, I used to shave some years off. Now that I'm 94, of course, I brag about it."

LIZ SPENCER

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

AUTUMN AND WINTER 1985

REPORTERS: JULIA REBER MILLICENT McINTOSH SUSAN CHOQUETTE

"Still sits the schoolhouse by the road, a ragged beggar sleeping." So wrote poet John Greenleaf Whittier many years ago. Tyringham's own two-room schoolhouse was well on its way to becoming a "ragged beggar." No classes have been taught there since 1978. (Historical Commission member Georgia Birkett, after tirelessly researching official records, ascertained that the school was opened in 1876.) Although its present outward appearance was not too bad, yet it had a forlorn and forsaken look. The interior was another matter, for great deterioration had taken place there. Something had to be done before this bit of Tyringham history vanished forever from the scene.

The Historical Commission of Tyringham, chaired by Clint Elliott, received permission from the Selectmen last fall to take control of the building. They appointed a "Save the Schoolhouse" Committee, whose aim is to restore the structure, rent half of it to a commercial enterprise, and convert the other half into a community center. The building is listed as being a "Gothic-cottage style structure," and no tenant will ever be permitted to make structural changes or alter the exterior.

We think it appropriate to list the members of the Schoolhouse Committee, for they put in a lot of hard work: Barbara Washburn, who was chairman at the outset, has decamped for sunnier climes (we miss her!); Katharine McLennan, who then took over; Clint Elliott, who is pinch-hitting for a month in Katharine's absence. (In a recent conversation with Clint, he admitted, with a groan, that he had no idea of the amount of work Katharine had put in. Now he too goes to the schoolhouse each day to assess the progress made.) But to go on with the list: Bob Brown, J. Player and Bobbie Crosby, Peter Curtin, Nini Gilder, Doug and Marion Leach, Alice Slater, and Gerald Swart. On October 12th Open House was held at the school; refreshments were served; and there was a Free Will Offering, the results of which were gratifying.

G. Martin Heller of Monterey is our first lessee. His half of the building will house the headqarters of the MarketWatch Corporation of America, a company which he has founded. May he prosper.

And now, in keeping with the season, your four reporters--Milly McIntosh, Liz Spencer, Sue Choquette and Judy Reber--wish everyone. . . . .

A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*** *** *** ***

And may the blessing of God be also on this

HANUKKAH SEASON

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Births:--To George and Nini Gilder, a daughter, Cornelia, on August 10, 1985. Her maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John L. B. Brooke of Lenox, and the paternal grandparents are Anne Palmer of our town, and the late Richard Watson Gilder.... On August 19, 1985, to A. Stephen and Susan (Wilson) Hale, of the Main Road, a son, Brody S. The paternal grandparents are Don and Mary Hale of Tyringham, and the maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Francis Wilson of Kansas.... To David and Eve Perkins, on August 23, 1985, a daughter, Sarah, at New Haven, Conn. The paternal grandparents are Ned and "Petey" Perkins, of Bethlehem, Pa., and Tyringham.

Deaths:--After a long illness, Mrs. Edward Reynolds (Dorothea), died on June 6, 1985. She was a Tyringham summer resident for many years. We tender sincerest condolences to her family.... Former Tyringham resident, and member of the Tyringham Union Church, Frederick A. Judd of Lee, died after a long illness on July 9, 1985. To his family we send our heart-felt sympathy.... Alberta Jones, of the Tyringham Main Road, died on September 3, 1985, after a lengthy illness. Along with her family, we mourn her passing.... After an illness of many years, Lois Kraszeski of Brace Road, died on November 5, 1985. Our deepest sympathy to Lois's family.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--Denise M. Curtin, daughter of Jim and Kathy Curtin of the Main Road, was married to George Capitanio, son of Mrs. Betty Capitanio of Lenoxdale, on June 29, 1985. The ceremony was performed at the First Congregational Church in Lee, with the Rev. Edward Marcus officiating.... The nuptials of Lilja Hinrichsen of Tyringham and Joseph Rizzo of Pleasantville, N. Y., took place on September 14, 1985, on the grounds of the Golden Goose Inn in Tyringham. The Rev. Edward Marcus, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Lee, officiated at the ceremony.... On October 4, 1985, Molly Ann Curtin, daughter of Neil and Helen Curtin of Tyringham, married Timothy Bruce Schaefer, also of Tyringham, and son of Mr. and Mrs. John Schaefer of Lee. The Rev. James Chase, retired minister of the Egremont Congregational Church, officiated at the marriage, assisted by the Rev. Paul D'Angona of the Union Church in Tyringham. And then there are . . . .

Bill and Blanche Thober, who celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on November 23, 1985. Earlier that week church members, forty strong, gave a surprise Silver Anniversary dinner at the parsonage and community center for a completely bowled-over Blanche and Bill. They hadn't a clue--which shows that a secret can be kept in this town. Our heartiest congratulations to the Thobers for achieving this marital milestone.

All Around the Town:--In the last issue of TOPICS, we failed to include the name of Helena Palmer in the section, "The Younger Set." Helena, daughter of Kay and Lisa Palmer, graduated cum laude from Harvard-Radcliffe College in June 1985. She received a B.A. in Literature, principally in Portuguese and French. Helena now works as Educateur at the Castle School and Residential Program in Cambridge. She is also an interpreter for the Boston Immigration Court.

At a recent meeting of the Valley Club, the following officers were elected: Pres., Evelyn Winters; Vice Pres., Mary Smith; Treas., Betty Cernik; Sec., Barbara

Adams. Barbara tells us that the club plans to make wreaths in early December for decoration of the town hall, the library, and the post office. Their circular bed of flowers in front of the post office last summer was as eye-filling as ever, and we are all duly appreciative of the work involved.

As Tyringham's representative in the American Red Cross drive, I would like to thank all town and summer residents for their generous response to the request for funds last March. The total was $511.00. Not bad for a small village. Thank you; and let's see if we can increase it a bit next year.

The two church suppers of the year--the Strawberry and Harvest Festivals--masterminded by Maggie Curtin and her cohorts, proved to be highly successful. Maggie wishes to thank all those who labored in the vineyard, so to speak, and all those who attended and/or donated items of food. Also, some of us are saving labels from commercial grocery food cans, boxes, and jars, and Maggie has requested that a special "thank you" be extended to Nancy Curtin (Mrs. Dennis) of Otis. Nancy exchanges the labels for cash, and these sums are subsequently turned over to our church for whatever use it sees fit. Thank you, Nancy.

The Firemen's Annual Steak Roast and Dance, held on August 3, 1985, was as usual a great success. Terry Curtin tells us that 700 diners were served. He wishes us to extend his personal thanks, via the TOPICS, to everyone involved in making this the successful event that it was. And this includes the wives of the firemen and other ladies who pitched in!

The firemen's pavilion on the Main Road now boasts a handsome new fence, one section being of chain (on the brook side), and the other three sections of split rail. This fence is entirely the gift of Walter Howard and his sister Maggie Howard. As a manifestation of their regard for Tyringham and the Fire Company, this is indeed a generous gesture. The construction of the fence, accomplished by the firemen, lends a rustic charm to the pavilion's grassy plot. I'm sure all of us would want to thank Maggie and Walter. Terry also said that plans are in the offing for the planting of shrubbery at some time in the not too distant future.

On a certain afternoon in late October, a horde of strange beings from Otherwhere and Outer Space rushed up to the homes of people demanding tribute--or revenge. Hallowe'en had arrived--that time so dear to the small fry, when they seek anonymity behind fearsome masks and beguiling costumes. For this year's event, the Valley and Hop Brook Clubs and the Ladies' Auxiliary supplied the refreshments. Sissy Curtin, "Hallowe'en Director," wishes to extend a special thank-you to Tom Fennelly and Gillie Palmer, who drove the hay wagons, and to Chief Jim Curtin for driving the fire truck in the parade. And a good time was had by all.

On Saturday evening, November 16th, those of us who could struggle through the terrible weather which suddenly had us in its grip, had a real treat in store at the Union Church. It can readily be said of the Phillips Andover's Fidelio Singers and Players of Andover, Mass., that they came; they sang; they conquered. This fine a cappella group is under the direction of Susan McI. Lloyd, daughter of Rustin and Millie McIntosh. Their repertoire included 15th and 16th century songs, and a dip into the contemporary sung by a smaller group calling themselves "All That Jazz." Near the end of "Alexander's Ragtime Band," something became slightly unglued, reducing not only the choir, but the audience itself, to gales of helpless laughter. A really great bunch of youngsters; we wish more could have heard them. The free will offering is for repairs to the parsonage, which is in dire need of refurbishment.

Just recently Mikey Curtin, age 12, son of John and Sissy Curtin, brought down a 61-pound doe with his bow and arrow. Sammy Slater accomplished the same feat at the age of 14. (Rev. Richard E. O'Hara of Lynn, Mass., please note.)

On November 23, 1985, in the community center, the women of Tyringham Union Church, organized by Maggie Curtin, held a "mini-bazaar" and food and furniture sale for the benefit of the church. The sum of $1,095.00 was realized--a goodly sum in anybody's book. Of this amount, $3.25 was earned by Lori Curtin, age 8, who gave rides to the children on her pony. Good girl, Lori!

Department of Utter Trivia:--From Ibid: "Requested the patient, 'Doctor, if there is anything wrong with me, don't frighten me half to death by giving it a long scientific name. Just tell me in plain English.' 'Well,' the doctor replied hesitantly, 'to be perfectly frank, you're just plain lazy.' 'Thank you, doctor,' murmured the patient. 'Now give me the scientific name so I can tell my family!'" From Bits and Pieces: "Some people will believe anything if you whisper it to them."

JULIA REBER

OUT-OF-TOWN NEWS: Deac and Eleanor Dodge now have ten grandchildren.... Bill and Connie Dyer had a great Amtrak trip across the country to visit Bev and grandchildren in San Diego. Jim was on sea duty during their visit.... The Duvernois family send warm greetings from Stuart, Fla.... Donna Drake, also in Florida, sends best wishes to all their friends and looks forward to the Topics.... Zoe Edmonds, a new summer resident, won first prize in the Pittsfield Athenaeum Short Story Contest for 10-12-year-olds.

GOLDEN HOUR NEWS: Union Church Sunday School Dept. saw to successful completion another summer session of the Golden Hour. New forces joined with the old to create a new format and an exciting atmosphere in which to hear the old, old story. Under the direction of Sue Choquette and Teri D'Angona, the former 5-week program was replaced by a 5-day consecutive session program. Crafty persons Barbara Washburn and Jeanette McCullough joined the Golden Hour Gang this season to direct arts and crafts activities. Our summer theme, God's People Pray, became a real learning experience for 21 Tyringham children as they attended the various booths of the Pathways of Prayer Center, such as the Prayer Patch, Joyful Junction, Peacemaker's Paradise, the Butterfly Booth, and Psalm Circle. Such wonderful crafts as stained glass cookies, origami doves, stenciled T-shirts, and footprint posters illustrated and reinforced the various themes.

Many thanks to the staff for their many hours of hard work and planning, to the parents for cheerfully contributing such delicious goodies for snack time, and to Pastor Paul D'Angona for his guidance and assistance. See you all next summer!

SUE CHOQUETTE

THE HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB: We started the summer by picking 40 quarts of strawberries for the church June supper. At our meetings in June and July we discussed various postcard designs submitted by Peter Eberth, and finally approved of three new views of Tyringham to put on sale. We studied the plans for rehabilitating the schoolhouse and voted to have a fall lecture to raise money for its repairs. Our August meeting was held at Liz Spencer's house, and became a farewell party for Barbara and Derric Washburn, who were moving with Stephanie to California for the winter. The mothers of the "Children's Playgroup" were invited, and thereby became informal members of the club.

We decided that we should find an educator to speak at our Schoolhouse Benefit, and with the help of Betty Hall, founder of Simon's Rock College, were able to get Leon Botstein, President of Bard-Simon's Rock, to speak on October 18th. Some of our audience took this opportunity to make major contributions, and we turned over $800 to the Schoolhouse Committee.

We are looking forward to our Christmas party in the McLennans' barn.

Millicent McIntosh, Secretary

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS, 1985

FROM SINAI TO BETHLEHEM ... One of the true meanings of Christmas comes to me by way of contrast. The contrast between the giving of the Law (the Ten Commandments) on Mount Sinai and the coming of the Prince of Glory in the humble stable of an inn, could hardly be greater. Yet it is certainly no greater than the difference between the Lawgiver and the Messiah or between the Law and Gospel. "The law was given through Moses, grace and truth came in Jesus Christ." (John 1:17)

The system of the Law was given through a purely human figure. It is not difficult to imagine the Law being given through any one of a dozen outstanding Old Testament characters.

The Gospel is the Good News of God revealing Himself in Jesus, so that in Him He might reconcile the world unto Himself. It is peculiarly personal. It is impossible to thinkf the Gospel apart from Him in whom it came into the world. You may accept Buddhism or Confucianism without concerning yourself with Buddha or Confucius. You cannot accept Christianity without accepting Christ. Others have said, "I teach the truth." Jesus said, "I am...the truth."

The Law was given ultimately to show us, through our failure to keep it, our need for the Gospel and so Christ. That is what Christmas is to me: It is Christ.

PAUL S. D'ANGONA

*

Stet and Barbara Adams
Steve and Cindy Adams
Robert C. Alsop
Toodie Alsop
The Alwards - Walt, Rosa, Walt Jr., and Heidi
Dick and Georgia Birkett
Barbara and Norbert Bogdan
The Bragdon Family: Teresa, Tricia and Rodney
In loving memory of "Butch" Bragdon
Bob and Mary Ann Brown, Nicole and Alexis
Jean Brown
Jonathan Brown and Family
Robert Brown
Jacob and Irmgard Bucher
Carolyn G. Canon
Mrs. Clifford Canon
In loving memory of Clifford R. Canon
Eleanor and Nort Canon and Family
Carolyn C. Carlson
In memory of the Carlson Family
Henning, Joyce, Michael and Kimberly Carlson
Larry, Betty and Jeff Cernik
Don, Jeremy and Scott Cernik
Richard and Jessica Cernik

Randy and Chris Cernik
Peter, Gail and Elisabeth Charpentier
Bob and Sue Choquette, Aubrey and Noah
Harvey and Dot Choquette
Chuck, Terry, David, Jon, and Kevin Clark
Irma Clark
In memory of "Duffy" Clark
Pat Clark and Family
In memory of Robert Clark
Maria Cole - Timolin Cole and Casey Cole
Thomas Coley
Mrs. Franklin Couch
Edward M. Coyne
Rev. and Mrs. John Cunningham and Family
Agnes Curtin
Carl, Chris, Christine and Larry Curtin
Gene and Nancy Curtin and their three sons,
Kevin, Eugene and Scott
Gerry Curtin
Mary Curtin
Neil, Helen and Mary Curtin
Stacey Curtin
In loving memory of David P. Curtin, and
John and Davena Curtin
Terry, Marilyn, Butchie, Kelly, Beth and Steve Curtin
Tommy and Maggie Curtin
In loving memory of John and Davena Curtin
Paul, Teri and Nathan D'Angona
Holly, Putt and Jennifer Darey
Ann and Donald Davis and Family
Harry Ellis Dickson and Family - Dr. Alfred and Jinny
Peters; Gov. Michael and Kitty Dukakis
The Dillon Family
Deac and Eleanor Dodge
Alice and Alison Donald
Penelope Borax, John Donald and David
Gerry, Donna, Christine and Patty Drake
In loving memory of Candace Heath
The DuVernois Family
Bill and Connie Dyer
Arthur and Jane Dyer
Bernard Edmonds, Julia Edmonds; Alexander Edmonds;
Zoe Edmonds
Dr. and Mr. Louis Eisenberg and Family
Clint and Varney Elliott, Susannah, Alex and Rosy
Jim, Bev (Dyer) Elsensohn, and Eric and Heidi
Ann, John, Andi, Alex Parker, and Eleanor Emerson
Jim and Eugenie Fawcett, John, Donald, Nan and James
Eddie, Dianne, Adam, Darrell, Pattie and Lynette
Fennelly
Marilyn, Bill, Cathy and Parker Fennelly
Tom Fennelly
Jerry Floyd Fenton
Michael and Dawn Fredette
Marian Gelsleichter
Honora and Don Gifford

Nini and George Gilder, Louisa, Mellie, Richard
and little Cornelia
Rod and Mellie, David and Cindy, Joshua Gilder
Arnold and Alice Hale
In memory of loved ones
Don and Mary Hale
In loving memory of Elizabeth L. Hale
Elizabeth J. Hale
"The Santonastasis"
Sue, Steve and Brody Hale
Charles and Judith Hauer
Cortland and Anna Heath
John W. and Lucy E. Holloway
Walter Howard
Sarah Hudson
Ken, Kenny and Linda Jones
Al, Martha, Jason and Allison Joyner
Phyllis Judd
In memory of Beulah Cannon and Eloise Myers
In memory of Fred Judd from Phyllis and Keith
Grace Knickerbocker
George and Betty Kramer, Alice, Hawley and
Charles Truax
Lucyan, Jon and Alan Kraszeski; Nancy and Ronald
Robitaille and Family
Doug and Marion Leach
Steven, Ruth, Erin and Shannon LeCompte
Eugene and Lucca Lehner, Andreas, Mary, Adam and Sven
Beatrice Loring
Dick and Dot Loring, and Ricky; Ed and Carol and
Family; Deby, Amy and Ashly Hunt, and Kevin
Dougherty
Olive Loring
Russell and Margaret Loring
Tunk, Dede, Chuck and Tony Loring
Barrie, Alex, Charles, James and Margaret Luchars
W. Merritt and Marylou McBrian
Michael, Jeannette, Dylan, Damon and Jason McCullough
Rustin and Millicent McIntosh; Jim, Carey, Susan,
Ken, Dick
Katharine and John McLennan and all the family
The Millers: Helena, Rod, Gabriel, Judy, Steve,
Tess, Nadia, Amasa, Elisa, Ginny, Lunt and Molly
James and Ruth Morse and Family
The Moskin Family
Lynn Goldberg
Shaun, Holly, Eamonn and Niall Murphy
Mr. and Ms. H. F. Nye
Dick and Marilyn O'Hara, Joshua, Jesse and Jonathan
Gilder and Anne, Reese and Walter Palmer; and
Rosamond Gilder
Helena, Toneo and Kay Palmer
John and Hylie Pappenheimer
Jesse Pierce
In memory of Helen Butler
Ned and Petey Perkins and Family

Mrs. P. W. Pursell
Viggo and Catha Rambusch, Edwin, Martin and Lucia;
Kristin and Alexander von Thelen
David B. Rauch
Fred, Tootie, Jim and Sarah Read
Judy and Peggy Reber
Margaret Rector - Susan Rector Barkin
Charles Reich, Julie Reich, Gabriel Reich and
Benjamin Reich
Lilja and Joseph Rizzo
Mr. and Mrs. Guy I. Robb
William Roerick
Morton and Libby Saks and Family
Dr. J. A. Salzmann; great-grandchildren Raphael
and Zoë
Eugene, Ina, Eric and Nancy Schnell; Vicki and
Jay Rosen
Caryn I. Schulz, M.D.
Leonard, Henriette and Andrew Schwartz
Charlie, Liz, and Marge Slater
Grace Slater
Sam and Debbie Slater
Mary and Gene Smith
Liz Spencer
Lisa and Shaun Stanton
Tom and Helen Stephens, Mark and Laura
William S. and Olive Stewart
Jo Stott
Tony, Phillipa (Claude) and Christopher Stretton
Michael, Kerry and Kelly Sullivan
Ruth and Gerald Swart
Alice Thain
Blanche and Bill Thober
Rev. Vesta Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Asher E. Treat
Mrs. R. Hawley Truax
Helen and Eddie Twing
Jerry, Toni and Nancy Twing
Gordon, Kate and Barb Van Orman
Barbara and Deric Washburn, Jennifer and Stephanie
Emily B. Welch
Louis I. and Cecele A. Weitzman
Arthur and Cathrine Weitzman, Peter and Anne
Muriel Weitzman, Ellen and Matthew
Joe, Marion and Denny Whalen
Bert, Karen, Keith, Timmy and Chad Williams
Evelyn Winters
In memory of Michael Winters
Lillian, Michael, James, Troy, Patrick and Melissa Winters
In memory of Kenneth (Red) Winters

*

ADDENDUM:--OUT-OF-TOWN NEWS:--Hawley Truax graduated from Amherst College last June. Charles is in his second year at Hamilton. After a summer term at Oxford, Alice is back at the New Yorker.

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

SPRING AND SUMMER 1986

REPORTERS: JULIA REBER - MILLICENT McINTOSH - ELIZABETH SPENCER - SUSAN CHOQUETTE

The trip was inspired by a deep concern for a people sorely tried. In March 1986, Sarah Hudson of Tyringham, together with eleven members of the Berkshire Committee on Central America, flew to Managua, Nicaragua. Since there are no diplomatic relations between that country and ours, some intermediate stops had to be made before they set foot on Nicaraguan soil. The committee took with it about a thousand pounds of badly needed supplies, which included sewing machines, typewriters, medical and dental equipment, school supplies, and a large quantity of different medicines.

With Managua as its base, the group traveled extensively, with a view of evaluating first hand the tenor of the country. They met with not only representatives of the current Sandinista Government (which Sarah says is not Communist--we're not going into the subject of politics here!), but also with some representatives of the National Assembly's six other parties. The committee was privileged to meet a broad spectrum of the population: Doctors, lawyers, teachers, the clergy, businessmen, and quite a number of people in the peaceful farming areas. At the same time the group also felt that there was a distinct military atmosphere in the air; but at no time did they feel endangered by it. On the contrary, the soldiers they saw were friendly, and often played with children in the streets. However, there is no question of the pride they displayed in their country, and they are prepared for the summons to war, should it ever come. Upon the overthrow of the Somosa regime, the present government actively set to work to institute a much needed literacy campaign, which extended to even the most remote villages. It also provided health care for everyone, although there is still much more to be done in this area.

For the Berkshire Committee on Central America, the Red Letter Day came when they journeyed to Malpaisillo, Nicaragua, taking with them the supplies which had been provided by our country. The Nicaraguans are a nation of friendly people, and they especially desire friendship with the United States. The committee's gifts were accepted with dignity and appreciation by the officials and citizens of Malpaisillo. This city is now a "sister city" of Pittsfield, and the B.C.C.A. hopes to undertake more projects there in the future. For Sarah, her brief sojourn in Nicaragua was an eye-opener, an intensely personal experience, and a very humbling one. One day she hopes to return.

Births:--A son, Andrew William Slater, was born on November 29, 1985, to Alice and Charles Slater Jr. of the Main Road. The paternal grandparents are Charles and Elizabeth Slater Sr., and the maternal grandparents are deceased.... On January 6, 1986, twin sons, Colin Alexander and Tyler Willem, were born to Jeannette and Michael

McCullough of Tyringham. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Willem van Ballegoyen of Gorinchem, The Netherlands, and the paternal grandparents are the late Mr. and Mrs. Frederick McCullough of Pittsfield.... Siobhan Couvier Murphy, daughter of Shaun and Holly Murphy of our town, entered the world ten weeks early. Premature though she was (weighing all of 3-1/4 pounds at birth), reports have it that she is fine now and doing well.

Christenings:--Cornelia Brooke Gilder, daughter of George and Nini Gilder, was christened on April 13, 1986 in the Tyringham Church, with the Rev. Paul D'Angona officiating.

Deaths:--Mrs. Althea Rudd Truax of New York City and Fernside, Tyringham died in New York City on December 15, 1985, at the age of 92. We tender sincerest condolences to all the Truax family.... Louis Eisenberg, M.D., of the Main Road, Tyringham, died suddenly on December 15, 1985. At the time of his retirement in 1980 he was Chief of Anesthesia Service at Hillcrest Hospital. To his wife, Marcia, and their family, we extend deep sympathy. Rustin McIntosh, M.D., died suddenly at his home at the age of 91 on February 15, 1986. A memorial service was held on March 1, 1986, in the Union Church in Tyringham. Our minister, Paul D'Angona, presided; Susan Slater Choquette led the choir, and Anne Alsop Palmer was organist. Afterwards, the ladies of the church served a delicious lunch, which was appreciated by all, but especially by the many people who had driven from a distance. We send our deepest sympathy to the McIntosh family.

All Around the Town:--Departing from previous custom, the Annual Meeting of the congregation of the Tyringham Union Church took place on Sunday, January 26, 1986, after the morning service. A toothsome lunch was first served, and then the following officers were elected: Moderator, Charles E. Slater; Clerk, Georgia Birkett; Treasurer, Robert Brown; Deacon (none this year); Deaconess, Millicent McIntosh; Member-at-Large, Carolyn Canon; Auditor, Rustin McIntosh (now deceased); Trustee, Margaret Curtin; Finance Committee, Robert Brown; Nominating Committee, Kathleen Van Orman; Sunday School Superintendent, Susan Choquette.

On May 19, 1986, 91 of the town's 228 registered voters directed their steps to the Town Hall and elected the following officers: Charles E. Slater, Moderator; Mary C. Hale, Selectman; Richard O. Loring, Cemetery Trustee (by write-in vote); Gerald W. Curtin, Park Commission; Irma Clark, Library Trustee; Tax Collector (vacant); Stetson K. Adams, Assessor; Marion T. Clark, School Committee; Gerald Swart, Planning Board; Suzanne E. Hale, Treasurer (write-in vote); Auditor (vacant).

Lest we forget: Many times when most of us can pull the covers over our heads and let the rest of the world go by, our able road superintendent, Dick Loring, and his assistant, Steve Adams, are plowing the various snowy roads in Tyringham. Theirs, the freezing wind and blinding snow; ours, only to arise and face the new day--to venture forth on roads that are plowed and safe. Thank you, Dick and Steve, for a job well done!

On January 12, 1986, a handsome new pulpit, given in memory of the late John and Davena Curtin by Tom and Maggie Williamson Curtin (son and daughter-in-law), was dedicated by the Rev. Paul D'Angona. The pulpit will be used in the Community Center of the Church where services are held only during the cold winter months. This is indeed a welcome acquisition, since the makeshift "pulpits" heretofore used were awkward in the extreme--especially for tall people.

"A Soldier of Peace." At first glance this phrase seems almost to be a contradiction in terms. However, this is just what Brian Urquhart, a Tyringham summer resident, has been for 41 years. Retiring now as Under Secretary General at the United Nations

in New York, Brian managed thirteen peacekeeping operations during his long tenure. He helped build a multinational force of "peacekeepers", who were determined to remain entirely neutral in preventing war among its sovereign countries. At times, Brian was in mortal jeopardy (in the Congo, where he ran afoul of Katangese troops who were the minions of the Soviet Union). Nonetheless, his good humor is intact, and he is still optimistic that the United States and the Soviet Union may find it in their interests to join the peacekeeping operations that can contain local conflicts. Mr. Urquhart now has a new position--Ford Scholar-in-Residence. Our good wishes go with him.

Since passage of the Bottle Law, the annual roadside pick-up team hasn't had to work so hard as in previous years. On April 20, 1986, a group of Tyringham's civic-minded set forth and picked up what had to be picked up. Their labors were rewarded with refreshments at the firehouse. The firemen provided the hot dogs; the Ladies' Auxiliary supplied salads and potato chips; and Cissie Curtin made the cookies. No one should have left hungry. The rest of us appreciate the group's dedication to "neatening" our roads.

Many of us are engaged in volunteer work of one kind or the other. Among the most dedicated volunteers in our town, none are more dedicated than Doug and Marion Leach. They have worked untiringly on the preservation of beautiful Tyringham Cobble. The Cobble, as it stands today, is a monument to the love and work that these two people have given, gratis, to the town. With a few others, similarly honored, Doug and Marion were guests at the 95th Annual Meeting of the Trustees of Reservations, held on May 13, 1986 at Ipswich. F. Sydney Smithers, Chairman of the Western Regional Committee, presented them with a "Certificate of Appreciation," remarking that the Leaches exemplified the dedicated volunteer. He added that Doug and Marion have adopted the Cobble for the last seven years, spent countless hours clearing thousands of unwanted trees, and installed more than two miles of fences. They were asked to choose a tree of their own. They picked a copper beech (a magnificent tree when full grown) and asked the Reservation officials to plant it across the road from the Kittredge (formerly Alsop) house where all may enjoy it. What a happy thought--and our thanks to Doug and Marion.

The Younger Set:--Four young people in Tyringham will graduate from Lee High School in June: Christine Curtin, daughter of Carl and Christine Curtin; Darrell and Patty Fennelly, son and daughter of Edward and Diane Fennelly, all of the Main Road; and Bryan Puntin, son of Donald and Lauria Puntin of Goose Pond. Christine, who received a Hop Brook Club scholarship, will enter Keene State (N.H.) College and will major in Business Ad-ministration. Bryan, also a Hop Brook awardee, will enter UMass to pursue a degree in civil engineering. Patty received a grant from the Club and plans to take a course in hair-dressing at McCann Vocational School in North Adams. Her brother, Darrell, will enter the Air Force at Lackland Base, Texas.... Susannah Elliott, daughter of Clint and Varney Elliott of the George Canon Road, received an M.A. in Fine Arts from Syracuse University, and has a position as Assistant Director of the Morris-Jumel Mansion in New York City. Rosy Elliott, her sister, has obtained a B.A. from Barnard College, and is presently reviewing the job market.... Cornelius (Plum) Kierstead, son of Wilson and Mary D. Kierstead, summer residents of Fernside, graduated from Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn. The best of luck to all of them! (P.S. Our scholarship awardees of 1984, Marjorie Slater and Michael Carlson, continue to appear on the Dean's List at their respective colleges with gratifying regularity.)

Department of Utter Trivia:--One thing that helped Rip Van Winkle to sleep 20 years is that none of his neighbors had power mowers. (The Wall Street Journal) ... While weeding out his wardrobe, a man came across a sports jacket he hadn't worn in years. He searched the pockets and found a claim check for a pair of shoes he'd left for repair and forgotten. Out of curiosity he went to the repair shop and presented the stub. The cobbler went to the back room, returned moments later, and said, "They'll be ready next

Tuesday." (Modern Maturity) ... Garden: Something most men prefer to turn over in their minds. (Modern Maturity)

--JULIA REBER

GOLDEN HOUR NEWS: The Union Church Sunday School Department will once again present the Golden Hour, its summer Vacation Bible School. The program will again be presented in a five-day consecutive session featuring as our theme, "Jesus Teaches Us," using the Gospel of Matthew as our Bible basis. Matthew is a teaching gospel, revealing the will, grace and love of God through the teachings of Jesus. Matthew declares the crowds were astonished at His teaching for He taught as one who has authority. Jesus taught through the word pictures of the parables. Through question and answer dialogue. Through His words of challenge, counsel and comfort. Through His example of service and prayer. This year in "Jesus Teaches Us," teachers, students, and families can share in the excitement of learning what Jesus' teachings are and what they mean for us today.

The exact dates and times have yet to be announced, and further information will be forthcoming. If you are interested in helping in the capacity of teaching or with crafts, or in any other way, please contact Sue Choquette at 243-3645 or Teri D'Angona at 243-9848.

--SUSAN CHOQUETTE

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB

This winter has provided us with the strangest, most unpredictable weather, with thoroughfares often so icy that one could hardly plan a "benefit," and expect an audience from other towns. One of our club members was literally iced-in her home for a week! We've had three meetings, one of which was held in the Church Center, and was followed by a talk on Safety in a Country Community, given by Chief State Police Trooper Martin. Alas, he had no solution for the teen-age vandalism which resulted in the disappearance of our town sign for the second time. However, he gave us many helpful suggestions about keeping our homes secure.

The sale of our newly designed postcards has been erratic, since the Schoolhouse card has sold out, the Church card has sold moderately well, but the library card has moved very slowly. We decided that we should have good supplies of all three cards to meet the demands of an increased number of tourists, and we have ordered more cards to fill the gaps.

At our May meeting, we had a full discussion of the possibility of giving grants from our Scholarship funds to Lee High School graduates who plan to take a one- or two-year vocational course. A review of our minutes indicates that the Club has several times voted to make the terms of awards flexible. One discussion ended with this conclusion: "Our real objective is not only to reward the excellent scholar, but to encourage our Tyringham young people to continue their education." As reported above, one grant for vocational training was made this May.

--MILLICENT McINTOSH, Clerk

CHARLES EDWARD SLATER

Lest March, eleven of Berkshire County's 70 deiry fermers bid successfully to sell their herds under the conditions of the Food Security Act of 1985, an experimentel progrem aimed et reducing the nation's milk surplus. Cherlie Sleter wes not among the bidders.

Sleters heve farmed in Tyringhem since the lete 18th century when greet, great, greet-grendfather Giles Sleter led the wey from Connecticut. And et leest one more generetion will cerry on. Cherlie's son Chuck is teking on more of the burden es his fether approeches ege 69 this August. While he understends that those who ere "going out" feel thet they heve no options, Cherlie Slater never geve eny serious thought to the buyout scheme. He wes recently cited, efter ell, by the University of Messachusetts for his "outstending contribution to egriculture."

Giles Slater built "Lost Ferm," the oldest remaining house in Tyringham, end fermed its lend. His son Eber expanded the ferm. Charles Edwerd, for whom Cherlie Sleter is named, cerried on the farm end lived across the roed from the present Sleter house where Cherlie's grendfether, Edwerd, wes born. It was he who bought the present Sleter house from his cousin Solomon Slater end nemed it Crystel Brook Ferm. There wes no question thet Cherlie's fether, Duene, would cerry on the ferm.

In more recent yeers Charlie Sleter bought beck ell the family lend except "Lost Ferm" which hes been owned by William Roerick since 1938. This yeer he sold some of the land to the Nationel Perk Service for use by the Appalechien Treil which will insure its remaining open lend.

His first eight school yeqrs were spent in the two-room schoolhouse now being preserved by the Tyringhem Historicel Commission. Both of his perents were teechers there. By the time he wes six his fether had given in to his plees end teught him to milk. When he wes nine, milking wes e chore to be done before school. He went on to Lee High School, bussed by John Heeth in e ven thet hed two windows cut out end benches elong the sides. The ven elso delivered the mail. In 1939 he gredueted from Massechusetts Stete College (now UMess) with e degree in enimal husbendry.

The next eight or nine yeers were spent working on the ferm. He was then tempted by e teaching offer end went to Williemstown es e high school level vocetionel egriculture teecher. The program wes funded by the federel government. It is ironic thet less then 40 yeers ago the government was spending money to encourage fermers, not to subsidize them or buy them out. He liked teaching. But there wes "nowhere to go" since those with higher renking positions were not much older then he wes.

It wes in 1951, the yeer he merried Elizebeth Bless of Lee, thet Cherlie Sleter took over the ferm five yeers before his father died. Oeiry ferming was chenging. In the 1920s, he seys, "e fermer could milk e dozen cows and make e living. In the '30s, just before I went to college, we were milking 25, by hend of course." Then the Greet Oepression, World Wer II, and the edvent of mechenizetion eccelereted the inevitable ferm revolution.

By 1964, when Crystel Brook Ferm was chenging from Jerseys to Holsteins, an ell wes built on the bern to eccommodete the new cers. It wes the third modern eddition. In 1928, the bern hed been flooded end the undersides weshed out by "our own personel flood." A flash storm struck selectively, and Crystel Brook wes the only streem in the velley effected. The bern wes then remodeled end enlerged. After e 1938 fire it wes remodeled egein. The most recent celemity, e fire in 1972, ruined both the old end new sections of the bern. Its subsequent remodeling once egein brought the bern up to dete.

The economics of todey's deiry ferming is both compliceted end controversiel. It is rare in e free enterprise system thet e businessmen's fortunes ere es closely tied to federel government edicts es ere e fermer's. Since the 1930s, in response to pressure from the powerful ferm lobby, ferming hes been government subsidized. For deiry ferms this tekes the form of minimum prices for milk end en egreement to buy eny

surplus determined by an act of Congress. Not much heed was paid to this system until the mid-1970s when dairy farms became so efficient that the surplus was something of an embarrassment. Billions of pounds of skim milk, butter and cheese began to overflow government warehouses. But even in an era when deregulation is much in favor, farm subsidies remain. The airline industry, for example, has been allowed to set its own fares, determine its own routes, decisions hitherto made in Washington. Havoc was the order of the day after Uncle Sam stepped aside, and it is yet to be determined which of the airlines will survive and prosper. Similarly, deregulation would certainly cripple many a farmer. Even so, many believe it is the only viable national policy. Congress has yet to bite the bullet. The depression on the nation's farms is so deep that the farm program currently in place could cost taxpayers as much as $100 billion over the next five years.

As Charlie Slater says, "Farming in the United States is handled in a political, not an economic, manner." It is also dealt with nationally rather than regionally. As he points out, "There's no similarity between farming in New England and anywhere else. A California dairy farmer can produce a hundredweight of milk $2.30 cheaper than we can." With their vast acreage and moderate climate, Texas and California dairy farmers can support 1,000-cow herds and don't need to store hay or buy feed.

As the price of milk to the farmer—not the consumer—continues to drop (from $14 per hundredweight to $11.60 in four years), his costs continue to rise. Mostly bank financed, a Caterpillar bulldozer costs $70,000, a haybine $13,000, a hay rake $3,000. If the farmer adds to his herd by buying instead of breeding, a first-rate cow can run $1,100. If he breeds, it takes more than two years to produce a milk cow from the time a female calf or heifer is born until she has her own first calf and begins lactation.

There is considerable doubt that Washington's latest "solution" to "the farm problem" will work. Charlie Slater doesn't think it will for the simple reason that most farmers "are just making ends meet and will have to add to production." About 38 percent of the cost of the buyout program will be paid for by the farmers themselves in the form of a 50-cent a hundredweight price cut. (The Berkshire County buyout alone will cost $1,830,000 paid over five years at an average of $33,000 per farmer per year.) Slater wouldn't be at all surprised if there is another price cut in the fall. Since land owned by participating farmers cannot be used for dairy farming for five years, it can only mean that remaining farmers will enlarge their herds to fill the gap.

Which is not to mention the brouhaha that terms of the buyout program stirred among animal rights activists and cattle ranchers. The program calls for cows being culled to be branded on their faces to prevent their illegal sale to other farmers. A suit has been filed to prevent the branding. Cattlemen, certain that the slaughter of 1,550,000 cows, calves and heifers will cost them tens of millions of dollars, also brought suit. The U. S. Department of Agriculture and the National Cattlemen's Association settled the suit when the Agricultural Department agreed to ask dairy farmers voluntarily to delay slaughter of their herds so that they will go to market in an orderly fashion. The department also has agreed to purchase enough beef to offset the additional cows being slaughtered, thus adding to the program's cost.

If he's right that the buyout will fail, even though he thinks it "may force others out who didn't go into the buyout and can't absorb higher costs," Charlie Slater has an educated guess as to what the next direction in surplus control could be. In Canada, dairy farms are given quotas and the quota stays with the land no matter who farms it. There is no surplus to store or finance. The trick is to be efficient enough to make a profit. "Eventually the United States may come to quotas for dairy farms in order to get a higher price for milk. Most farmers would accept it."

Meanwhile, he is determined that Crystal Brook Farm will continue to be among the first two or three farms in the county for milk production and will win more awards from the breeding associations. With rising costs, falling prices and a dearth of good help, the Slater system becomes all the more important. Hay gets into the Harvesters in half the time and with less labor than baling. When cows are fed individually in the barn, he and Chuck can see in a day or so if a cow is off her feed. "Attention to detail is what counts in dairy farming," he says. "You can't hire people to do what you do yourself."

—LIZ SPENCER

Tyringham Topics

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AUTUMN AND WINTER 1986

REPORTERS: JULIA REBER and MILLICENT McINTOSH

The most important town news this Christmas time concerns the School House. As we all know, because of its age, and because it was unoccupied for so long, its preservation has presented major problems. Fortunately, a new company has been established in town by Bob Brown and Paul D'Angona in partnership: Accord Diversified Consultants. Clinton Elliott, Chairman of the Historical Commission, has sent us the following statement:

"The Tyringham Historical Commission, which has administration over the School House, has decided to sign a ten-year lease with Accord. The company will maintain the building, and has plans to put in new bathrooms and a new heating system at its expense, and will also make other improvements. No exterior alterations will be made, except for closing off a side door and installing a second-story window. No alterations or improvements of <u>any</u> sort will be made without the knowledge and approval of the Historical Commission. The property will continue to be owned by the town.

"The prospect of raising large sums of money to improve the plumbing and heating, in addition to continuing the regular expenses of maintenance, led to this decision as the prudent step to take to preserve the building for the town. The Youth Center (now in process of being reorganized), the Town Hall, and the Community Center at the Church will assume the community needs. We could not have community use of the School House <u>and</u> pay the bills.

"Our handsome 1876 school house is still standing only because of the efforts and generous gifts of a great many people. You paid for a new ceiling, sheet rock, clapboards, wiring, paint, gutters, and many repairs to hot water heater and furnace and plumbing. You deserve all grateful thanks."

BIRTHS:--On June 27, a son, Joseph Anthony, to George and Denise (Curtin) Capitanio of Pittsfield. The maternal grandparents are Jim and Kathie Curtin of Tyringham, and the paternal grandmother is Mrs. Betty Capitanio of Lenoxdale.... In Pittsfield on July 20, to Kerry (Clark) and Michael Sullivan, a son, Michael Clark Sullivan. The maternal grandparents are Irma Clark and the late Wilbur Clark Jr. of our town, and the paternal grandparents are Robert Sullivan and the late Helen Sullivan of Pittsfield.... On August 31, twins were born to USAF Capt. Michael Fredette and Dawn Fredette at Patterson Air Force Base Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. They are named Tiffany Jean and Alexander Michael. The maternal grandparents are Betty and Larry Cernik of Tyringham, and the paternal grandparents are Gerald and Constance Fredette of Nashua, N. H.... To Keith-

Michael Frank and Jill Diane Frank of Tyringham, a son, Graham-Michael Frank, on October 9. The maternal grandparents are Martin and Betty Graham of Great Barrington, and the paternal grandparents are Sidney and Elizabeth Frank of Rye, N. Y.

CHRISTENING:--Deanna Garner, daughter of David and Lisa Garner of Otis, was christened on June 1 in the Union Church in Tyringham. Pastor Paul D'Angona officiated.

DEATHS:--Edwin W. Twing Sr., long-time resident of Tyringham, died on August 24 after a protracted illness. To his widow, Helen, and her family we extend sincerest condolences.... Miss Rosamond Gilder, 95, died at her home in Tyringham on September 5. During her long life, Miss Gilder attained distinction both as an author and as a drama critic. An award in her honor, "The Rosamond Gilder Award for Creative Achievement," was established by the New Drama Forum in 1978. We extend deepest sympathy to all her family.... Roy G. Heath, 91, long-time resident of Tyringham, and World War I veteran, died on November 1 at the nursing home in Lee. In his time Mr. Heath was a member of the National Rifle Association, the Izaak Walton League, the American Legion, and the Tyringham Fife and Drum Corps. Our sincere condolences to his family.

ALL AROUND THE TOWN:--The Valley Club's Barbara Adams tells us that its Flea Market of last July was a huge success. We know, of course, that the club's members plant and nurture the circular arrangement of lovely flowers which bloom in front of the post office. They are a joy to behold. The club also plans on making Christmas wreaths for the adornment of the Library, Town Hall and post office. True devotion.

Credit where credit is due: Many Tyringham adults and children enjoy the limpid waters of the town pool. The season was launched by a thorough weeding and clearing of its banks by "Hoppy" Loring and Steve Adams, and the surrounding lawn was kept neatly mowed all summer by Jerry Curtin. The users of the pool have asked us to extend their grateful thanks. They are well deserved.

Maggie Curtin and Mary Anne Fennelly, those two captains of industriousness, put on three suppers for the benefit of the Church: in early May a spaghetti supper (not so well attended due to belated advertising); a huge turn-out for the Annual Strawberry Festival in June; and the Harvest Supper in October, which was extremely well attended. Maggie wishes to extend her thanks to all who worked in the cooking and serving; all who donated items of food; and all who attended.

A chat with Jim Curtin, Chief of the Tyringham Fire Company, elicited the fact that the Company's Annual Steak Roast and Dance, in early August, was all that could be hoped for. Jim wishes to extend his thanks to everyone who helped to make this occasion the great success that it was.

Just recently, that foremost proponent of entrepreneurism, George Gilder of our town, was one of a number who received from President Reagan at the White House the first "Presidential Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence." This was in recognition of George's book, Wealth and Poverty, which came out in 1980, and was acclaimed by Mr. Reagan at that time. George's newest book, Men and Marriage, was published recently. We wish for him a large sale of his latest literary endeavor.

It must be the understatement of the year. When English-born Sir Brian Urquhart, of New York City and Tyringham (and until recently Under Secretary-General of the United Nations), was asked why he thought Queen Elizabeth II had lately conferred knighthood upon him, he replied, "I suppose in my case it's for being such an international good chap over the years." There will always be an England!

CHRISTMAS GREETING 1986

The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ into this world is a wellspring of pure unmingled joy. We associate with His crucifixion much of sorrowful regret, but we derive from His birth at Bethlehem nothing but delight. The angelic song was an appropriate accompaniment to the joyful event, and the filling of the whole earth with peace and good will is a suitable consequence of the condescending fact. The stars at Bethlehem cast no baleful light: we may sing with undivided joy, "Unto to us a child is born, unto us a son is given." When the Eternal God stooped from heaven and assumed the nature of His own creature who had rebelled against Him, the deed could mean no harm to man. God in our nature is not God against us but God with us. We may take the young child in our arms and feel that we have seen the Lord's salvation; it cannot mean destruction to men. I do not wonder that the people of this world celebrate the anniversary of a great birthday as a high festival with carols and banquets. Knowing nothing of the spiritual meaning of the mystery, they still seem to perceive that it means man's good, and so in their rough way they respond to it. We who purport to know something of the spiritual implications of this great event ought to be inclined to rejoice continually in our Prince of Peace, and find in our Lord's manhood a fountain of consolation.

To those who are truly the people of God, the incarnation is the subject of thoughtful joy, which continually increases with our knowledge of its meaning, much the same as rivers are enlarged by many trickling brooks. The birth of Jesus not only brings us hope, but the certainty of good things. We do not merely speak of Christ's coming into relation to our nature, but of His entering into union with ourselves, for He has become one flesh with us for purposes as great as His love. He is one with all of us who have believed in His name.

--Paul S. D'Angona, Pastor

Stet and Barbara Adams
Robert and Toodie Alsop
Suzette and Tom Jones; Sarah and Teresa Colburn;
Denny and Beck Alsop, Eliza, Zoë, and Ben Alsop;
Adele Alsop, Basil Eisenman; Christina and Bill
Beautyman, Denny Gignoux, Mairi and Suzanne Beautyman
Mebby Barhydt Allen, and Richard
Babby Barhydt
Rory, Christine, D.C. and Christian Bienvenue
Richard and Elizabeth Billington
Richard and Georgia Birkett
Mrs. Warner B. Bishop
Barbara and Norbert Bogdan
Bob and Mary Ann Brown, Nichole and Alexis
Jean Brown and Family: Jonathan, Sandra, Claire,
Michael and Daniel; Robert
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bucher
Carolyn G. Canon
Mrs. Clifford R. Canon
In loving memory of Clifford R. Canon
Nort, Eleanor and Jennifer Canon
Virginia Gorman Carruthers; Dr. and Mrs. Joseph
Moran, and Conor
Mr. and Mrs. James Caseley, Steven and Kerstin

Larry F., Betty and Jeff Cernik
Richard and Jessica Cernik
Donald, Jeremy and Scott Cernik
Randy and Chris Cernik
Capt. Michael and Dawn Fredette, and twins
Alexander and Tiffany
Peter, Gail, and Elisabeth Charpentier
Bob, Sue, Aubrey and Noah Choquette
Chuck, Terry, David, Jon and Kevin Clark
Irma Clark
In memory of Robert Clark
Michael, Pat, Robert, Robin and Kristie Clark
Candace H. Coco
Mrs. Maria Cole, Timolin, Casey, and Kelly
Thomas Coley
Ruth P. Couch
Edward M. Coyne
Rev. John and Jackie Cunningham
Agnes Curtin
Carl and Chris Curtin, Christine and Larry
Gerry Curtin
Mary Curtin; Gene, Nancy, Kevin, Eugene and
Scott Curtin
Neil, Helen and Mary Curtin
Tommy and Maggie Curtin
Paul, Teri, and Nathan D'Angona
Holly and Jennifer Darey
Ann and Donald Davis and Family
Betty L. Dennis
Harry Ellis Dickson and Family: Governor
Michael and Kitty Dukakis; Dr. Alfred
and Jinny Peters
The Dodge Family of Gorham, Maine
Alice and Alison Donald
Penelope Borax, John Donald and David
Gerry, Donna, Chris and Patty Drake
In loving memory of Candace A. Heath
In loving memory of Roy G. Heath
Bill and Connie Dyer
Arthur and Jane Dyer
Clint, Varney, Susannah, Alex and Rosy Elliott
Jim and Bev (Dyer) Elsensohn, Eric and Heidi
Ann, John, Andi, Alex, Parker and Eleanor Emerson
Jim and Eugénie Fawcett, John, Donald, Nan
and James
Eddie, Diane, Adam, Darrell, Pat and Lynette Fennelly
Jerry Floyd Fenton
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Garner and Nancy
Mr. and Mrs. David Garner, Levi and Deanna
Honora and Don Gifford

Nini and George Gilder, Louisa, Mellie, Richard and Cornelia
Rod and Mellie, David and Cindy, Joshua Gilder
Arnold and Alice Hale
In memory of loved ones
Don and Mary Hale
In loving memory of Elizabeth L. Hale
Juel Hale
Steve, Sue and Brody Hale
Charles and Judith Hauer
Cortland and Anna Heath
Mrs. Bartlett Hendricks
Eleanor and John ("Rocky") Hoag
John and Gladys Holloway
Ken, Kenny and Linda Jones
Al, Martha, Jason and Allison Joyner
Jim and Celia Kittredge
Grace Knickerbocker
George and Betty Kramer, Alice, Hawley and Charles Truax
Lucyan Kraszeski, and Jon, Alan and Nancy
Doug and Marion Leach
Steven, Ruth, Erin and Shannon LeCompte
Eugene, Lucca, Andreas, Mary, Adam and Sven Lehner
Beatrice Loring
Dot and Dick Loring, and Rick; Ed and Carol, Shawn, Sarah
and Jeremy Loring; Debbie, Henry, Kevin, Amy, Ashley
and Kristin Hall
Margaret and Russell Loring
Olive Loring
Tunk, Dede, Chuck and Tony Loring
Marylou and Merritt McBrian
Michael, Jeannette, Jason, Damon, Dylan, Colin and Tyler McCullough
Millicent C. McIntosh, Jim, Carey, Sue, Ken and Dick
In memory of Rustin McIntosh
John and Katharine McLennan
Holly, Emma and Henry Wheelwright
Angelica, Philippe, Miranda and Marc Syp
Susan Bishop and Rachel
Judith Bishop, Charles Bookoff and Maia Bishop-Bookoff
Moo, Michael and Milo Stella
Jennifer Bishop
The Millers: Helena; Rod and Richard (Gabe); Judy, Steve,
Tess and Nadia; Amasa and Elisa; Ginny, Lunt and Molly
Anne and Chris Moffett, Jonathan, Sam and Sarah
Polly and Ray Montgomery
Lynn and Bob Moskin; Mark, David and Nancy Moskin
In memory of Paula Mattlin
Shaun, Holly, Eamonn, Niall and Siobhán Murphy
Dick and Marilyn O'Hara, Joshua, Jesse and Jonathan
Gilder and Anne Palmer
Walter Palmer
Reese Palmer
Helena, Tonio and Kay Palmer
John and Hylie Pappenheimer and Family
Ned and Petey Perkins and Family

Jesse Pierce
In memory of Helen Butler
Mrs. Phillips W. Pursell
Viggo and Catha Rambusch, Edwin, Martin and Lucia; Kristin and Alexander von Thelen
David B. Rauch
Judy and Peggy Reber
Lilja and Joseph Rizzo
Martha D. Robb
Guy I. Robb
William Roerick
Martin and Libby Saks and Family
Dr. J. A. Salzmann
Gene, Ina, Eric and Nancy Schnell; Vicki and Jay Rosen
Leonard, Henriette and Andrew Schwartz
Charlie, Liz and Marjorie Slater
Grace Slater
Sam and Debbie Slater
Mary and Gene Smith
Pad Spence
Paddy Spence
Colin Spence
Justin Spence
Liz Spencer
Tom and Helen Stephens, Mark and Laura
Jo Stott
Kerry, Michael, Kelly and Michael C. Sullivan
Ruth and Gerald Swart
Alice S. Thain
Blanche and Bill Thober
Joy and Asher Treat
Helen Twing
In memory of Edwin Twing
Tootie, Freddie, Jim and Sarah Read
Jerry, Toni and Nancy Twing
Brian and Sidney Urquhart, Rachel and Charles; Thomas Canfield
Gordon, Kate and Barb Van Orman
Barbara and Deric Washburn, Jennifer and Stephanie
Joe, Marion and Denny Whalen
Bert, Karen, Keith, Timmy and Chad Williams
Evelyn Winters
In memory of Michael Winters
Lillian, Michael, James, Troy, Patrick and Melissa Winters
In memory of Kenneth (Red) Winters

On July 27, in the Tyringham Union Church, Sue Choquette gave a concert of original gospel songs, accompanying herself on the guitar. The affair drew a large crowd, and the proceeds of the concert were considerable. Sue is donating the money toward the project to convert the parsonage barn into a youth center.

Candace Coco and Donna Drake, daughters of the late Roy Heath, have contributed the sum of money donated by the people of Tyringham in memory of their father to the Youth Center of the Union Church. They are deeply appreciative of this gift, and we in our turn thank them for their generosity to the youth of our town.

All Hallows Eve--otherwise known as Hallowe'en--was a perfect evening for "beasties and bosties and long-legged ghosties and Things that go bump in the night" to be abroad in the land. The children first met in the school house, where refreshments were served--courtesy of the fire company, the Ladies' Auxiliary, and the Town of Tyringham. Sissie Curtin, "Hallowe'en Director," wishes to express her thanks to the parents who chaperoned the event, to Fire Chief Jim Curtin for driving the fire truck, and to Tom Fennelly and Gilly Palmer for driving the children around town in hay wagons.

How can one woman wear so many hats? It takes a person of tremendous energy, which is just what Mary Hale of Tyringham has. Recently she was elected Vice President of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. She became a member of this organization when she was elected a Tyringham selectman, and has been an officer and board member for three years. She is the town's Chief of Police. Mary is also a member of the Local Governors Advisory Council, past president of the Berkshire County Advisory Board, and was recently elected to the Berkshire County Charter Commission. She is currently serving her third term as a selectman. As one of the founders of the Tyringham Landowners Association, she currently serves as its treasurer and a director. In addition to all these time-consuming offices, Mary has a job of work as marketing assistant at the Berkshire Life Insurance Company. Whew! How can one person wear so many hats?

The Christmas party for the children of Tyringham will be held on December 19 at the Town Hall at seven o'clock. Parents are asked to bring the presents they wish their children to receive. Mr. Claus will be impersonated by Jerry Curtin.

DEPARTMENT OF UTTER TRIVIA:--A woman called her bank for the disposal of a thousand-dollar bond. "Is this bond for conversion or redemption" asked a deep voice on the other end of the line. The woman paused, then asked, "Excuse me. Am I talking to the bank or to the church?"... A good day: When the wheels of your shopping cart all go in the same direction.... For today's teenager, the key to happiness is the one that starts the family car. (From Modern Maturity)

--Julia Reber

OUT-OF-TOWN NEWS:--Mrs. Warner B. Bishop expresses her pleasure in her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, listed under Katharine McLennan's name.... Dr. J. A. Salzmann also writes of his pride in his great-grandchildren, who live in Paris and Athens, Georgia.... Juel Hale has moved from her daughter's house to 835 Bing Drive #23, Santa Clara, California, not far away. She wrote with enthusiasm of her visit to Tyringham.... John Holloway was married on September 13 to Gladys, "a lovely lady I've known for several years."

THE HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB:--We met several times to decide on and plan for a speaker for our autumn benefit. We felt honored and pleased that Sir Brian Urquhart accepted our invitation, and worked hard on our invitation lists to reach an audience that would be worthy of the former Under Secretary-General of the United Nations. We were rewarded by a packed Town Hall, an inspiring talk, and a collection of over $1200 for the Church Painting Fund.

--Millicent McIntosh

* * * * * * *

And now, in keeping with the Season, your four Topics reporters--Milly McIntosh, Liz Spencer, Sue Choquette and Judy Reber--wish everyone

A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

And may you be blessed also in this HANUKKAH SEASON

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community

SPRING AND SUMMER 1987

REPORTERS: Julia Reber, Elizabeth Spencer, Millicent McIntosh

Tyringham, as is the case of a number of other small towns in the area, is indeed fortunate in having a Volunteer Fire Company. Thanks to the invention of the internal combustion engine, fire-fighting today is a great improvement over the primitive methods which, perforce, had to be used in the past. In the olden days, when a fire erupted, the sole way of extinguishing it was by the "bucket brigade"--buckets of water passing from man to man--a painfully slow process. For many years Tyringham relied on Lee for its fire protection, and up until 1918 or '19 that meant a steam-pumper. In 1942, Willis Hale and Charles McCarthy were instrumental in establishing the town's first Volunteer Fire Company. Memory doesn't always withstand the test of Time, but the consensus is that Charles McCarthy was the first Fire Chief.

The Fire Company owns its own building (and the pavilion, of course),but the town furnishes heat, light, etc., and owns the equipment. The original apparatus (1942) is still extant and has just been rehabilitated. A large donation from the late Olivia James, summer resident from New York City, made possible the purchase of this equipment by the town. In addition, the town also owns fire pumpers dating back to 1956 and 1976. The firemen themselves, with some local help, built the fire-house in 1955. An addition was later added, and most recently, the pavilion was erected. Before this time, the apparatus was housed in the town hall garage.

Probably the most spectacular fires were the ones which destroyed Ashintully in 1952, and the rake factory in February, 1978. In the latter case, the Lee and Lenox fire companies responded to our calls for assistance, due to the magnitude of the blaze. In like manner, Tyringham reciprocates when its help is needed in nearby towns.

In order to qualify, would-be firemen must pass a test in cardiac pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and also have a knowledge of first-aid methods. Jim Curtin, of the Main Road, is currently Chief of the Tyringham Volunteer Fire Company. The organization is composed of more than thirty members, some of whom are even from out of town. Every resident of Tyringham is grateful to our volunteer firemen for their steadfast efforts on our behalf. We thank you!

(My thanks to Jim Curtin, Arnold Hale, Ken Jones, Joe Whelan, Bill Fennelly, and Charles Slater, Sr.)

Births:--To Roger and Colleen Newton, of Fernside, a son, Matthew John Newton, born on April 8, 1987. The maternal grandparents are Charles and Jean Killackey of Lee: and the paternal grandparents are Roger Newton, Sr., of Lee, and Diane Keefner of Sheffield.

Deaths:--We convey our deepest sympathy to the family of the late Walter Damrosch Howard who died on January 3, 1987. Walter was a writer of grace and imagination, and his frequent articles on the Op-Ed page of the **Berkshire Eagle** will be missed by his many readers.... Dr. Jon L. Kraszeski, of Niskayuna, N. Y., and a former Tyringham resident, died on March 26, 1987. Jon was director of the medical clinic at Albany Veterans Hospital, and an associate professor of clinical medicine at Albany Medical College. To his family, we send our sincerest condolences.

All Around the Town:--On January 25, 1987, after the Sunday morning church service (and a tempting lunch), the annual election of church officers produced the following: Moderator, Charles E. Slater; Clerk, Georgia Birkett; Treasurer, Robert Brown; Deacon, Kenneth Jones: Deaconess, Janice Curtin; Member-at-Large, DeKay Palmer (2 years); Member-at-Large, Millicent McIntosh (1 year); Auditor, W. F. Thober; Trustee, Kenneth Jones; Finance Committee, Millicent McIntosh; Nominating Committee, Cornelia Gilder Sunday School Superintendent, Susan Choquette.

On Tuesday, May 12, 1987, at a meeting in the Town Hall, the voters in Tyringham approved the 1988 budget in the amount of $456,811--an increase of $29,471 over the 1987 budget. At one point in the meeting, Chief Selectman Peter Curtin presented Alice Hale of Sunset Farm with a plaque commemorating her long and dedicated service to the people of Tyringham. There was a standing ovation. For thirty years Alice has competently and graciously performed in all areas comprising the rather arduous role of Town Clerk. Afterwards all her friends gathered in a most pleasant hour of coffee, punch, "eatables", and conversation with Alice.

On Monday, May 18, 1987, more than 60% of the town's registered voters--much better than last year!--selected the following town officers: Moderator, Charles E. Slater; Selectman, Richard A. Heath, Sr.; Town Clerk, Teresa L. Bragdon; Town Treasurer, Suzanne E. Hale; Tax Collector, Betty Jean Cernik; Cemetery Trustee, Charles E. Slater; Library Trustee, Barbara S. Adams; Assessor, Raymond E. Smith; School Committee, Lauria D. Puntin; School Committee, Joan M. Mougin; Park Commissioner, Karen A. Consolati; Planning Board, Donald A. Puntin (3 years) and Charles E. Slater, Jr. (5 years).

At a meeting on May 6, 1987, a temporary ban (six months to a year) on the building of single-family homes in Tyringham was discussed. Karl A. Hekler, director of the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission, asserted that the ban would give the town a chance to study its by-laws objectively, and develop a package of land-use controls. Both the townspeople and the local Planning Board itself were at odds for a solution, so the matter was temporarily shelved.

Jim Kittredge, Chairman of the Open Land Use Committee, states that after a number of meetings, the committee is proceeding with the development of a plan, which will be filed with the State Conservation Service. If acceptable, this will enable Tyringham to receive funds for recreation and/or conservation projects. Jim said that volunteers are needed, and will be most welcome!

Benefiting the Tyringham Volunteer Fire Company and the Berkshire County Special Olympics, the Tyringham Road Race was run on Sunday, May 3rd. Richard Clairmont of

Clinton, and Moira Brophy of Lenox were the male and female winners. Special Olympian Jon Clark of Tyringham won an award for completing the mile in 10:28. Other valley entrants were Kevin Clark and Mikie Curtin.

Maggie Curtin and Mary Ann Fennelly, with a host of willing workers, organized a delicious Chicken Barbecue Supper at the Community Center on May 6, 1987. Jake and Lisa Thomas were the chief "barbequers", ably assisted by Pastor Paul D'Angona. The supper was a complete success, and Maggie says that the annual Strawberry Festival is scheduled for June 24th.

Composer John S. McLennan of the Main Road, was honored in a recent recital at Andover, Mass., when two of his works were played by BSO first violinist Amnon Levy, together with two BSO colleagues: Duo for Violin and Viola, and John's new Trio for Violin, Viola and French Horn. The latter work will be played at the Prelude at Tanglewood on August 21, 1987. Congratulations, John!

With the Colors--to snitch a title from a **Berkshire Eagle** column: U. S. Air Force Captain Michael Fredette (husband of the former Dawn Cernik, and father of twins) received his Master of Science degree in Logistics at the Patterson Air Force Base College in Dayton, Ohio. Michael graduated at the head of his class with a 4.0 average. Can't beat that. The Fredettes have recently been transferred to the air base at San Vito, Brindisi, Italy.

The Younger Set:--As was the case last year, four young people in Tyringham will graduate from the Lee High School in June: David Clark, son of Chuckie and Terry Clark, will go on to Berkshire Community College; Larry Curtin, son of Carl and Christine Curtin, will enter Western New England College; Jeffrey Lenti of Goose Pond, son of Maureen E. Lenti, will enter Westfield State College; and Anthony Puntin, also of Goose Pond and son of Donald and Lauria Puntin, plans to enter the University of Lowell. All four gentlemen received scholarships from the Hop Brook Community Club.... Annette (Nan) Fawcett, daughter of Jim and Eugenie Fawcett of Fernside, graduated from Purnell School, Pottsville, N. J. She plans to enter Susquehanna University at Selinsgrove, Pa., in the fall.

A Backward Glance:--Marjorie Slater (Westfield State College) and Michael Carlson (Western New England College) again were on the Dean's List for the two semesters. Both were 1984 H.B.C.C. scholarship awardees. Marjorie also was elected to the National Honor Society, Alpha Chi, which, for a small college, is equivalent to Phi Beta Kappa at large colleges and universities.... Sam Slater, 1981 scholarship awardee, has been named assistant cashier of the Earlville, N. Y., office of the National Bank and Trust Company of Norwich, N. Y. Our congratulations to present and past awardees.

After a decade of dedicated work on behalf of the Hop Brook Club's finances, Treasurer Blanche Thober has relinquished her stewardship. (A bouquet for Blanche.) Milly McIntosh, former club Secretary, is now its Treasurer, and Penelope Littell has assumed the job of Secretary. In passing, we would like to point out that there are still a number of Tyringham mugs available. Penelope designed them and they are very handsome--to say nothing of being a bargain at $4.00 per mug. They can be bought at Penelope's home on Jerusalem Road, from Irma Clark at the post office, and from the Davises at the Tyringham Art Gallery on the Main Road. Better hurry up!

Golden Hour News:--Sue Choquette, perennial director of the Golden Hour, has advised us that her agenda for the summer session is not yet completed. Sue is in need of

volunteers, and hopes that some of you "out there" will come to her rescue. Notice of firm dates will be placed in the post office boxes, or by word of mouth to the parents of children wishing to attend.

Department of Utter Trivia--From **AAA Today**: "You know you're growing old when your knees buckle and your belt won't." "The best substitute for brains is silence." From **Modern Maturity**: "Church announcement for a Wednesday night chicken dinner: "Come in for a wing and a prayer."

JULIA REBER

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB
Tyringham, Massachusetts 01254

Dorothy McGuire stripped wallpaper. Shirley Booth painted a bedroom. Lynn Bari removed overgrown trees and shrubs. Peggy Wood dug up wildflowers to transplant to her own garden. Mady Christians prepared her fish specialties. Eleanor Steber and Samuel Barber did nothing. But they had suggestions for improvements to be made by others. The scene was Lost Farm. The host was Bill Roerick who was determined that one of the oldest houses* still standing in Tyringham would live on.

It was his English professor at Hamilton College, Bob Rudd, who first introduced Bill to Tyringham in the 1930s. And it was Alexander Woolcott, Rudd's friend and an earlier Hamilton graduate, who influenced Bill's career in the theatre and his return to the Berkshires to train at the Stockbridge playhouse school in 1935. That summer Bill stayed with the Rudds.

In 1938 he bought Lost Farm which was "one step away from being a cellar hole." The chimney held up the front of the house, but a wall had collapsed in the back and the roof hung touching the ground. For more than a few years, life at the farm was lived much as it had been in the mid-18th century when it was built. There was no running water, electricity or telephone. "I'm not clever at making money," says Bill, "and I've trained myself not to want things I can't afford." He assumed that such niceties as modern conveniences were beyond his means and never even asked the cost. At one point, when he was spending "every extra dollar repairing porcupine damage," he "realized that I had better treat it seriously as a house." Henry DuPont, whose museum at Winterthur is nationally renowned, advised him "not to go too fast; people often ruin these rare old houses." There was no danger of that. Most of the time he couldn't go fast enough. It wasn't until the mid-1950s that Lost Farm entered the 20th century.

Bill Roerick is one of those rare people who could have been successful in a variety of fields. Art, architecture and literature are among those in which he has more than casual knowledge. He bought his first picture (a Japanese print) when he was 15, and his acute eye and scholarship would qualify him as a curator or dealer. He is intimately aware of his surroundings whether he is in New York City where he maintains an apartment or the Berkshires where he is as often as his career permits. Some ten years ago he ad-libbed the narration for a slide show on early Berkshire buildings that remains a classic. And his love of the English language could have brought him to a university.

Currently chairman of the Hamilton College Visual Arts Advisory Committee--the college was given a gallery about five years ago and hopes to fill it with a collection of works on paper--Bill has donated 65 prints and drawings from his own collection and is actively pursuing other suitable pieces. More than once his keen eye for pictures has rewarded him, but never more happily than on the day in the early 1950s when he wandered into an antique shop in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and spotted a dusty oil of a beach scene hung high on a wall. The longer he looked the more it resembled a Winslow Homer although, when the dealer took it off the wall and dusted it for him, only a hole in the canvas and the legend "Easthampton, N. Y. 1874" were revealed. The frame alone, the dealer said, was worth her $40 asking price. Somewhat chagrined that his cash on hand totaled $30, Bill left the shop but couldn't get the picture out of his mind. In a book he found in a Tulsa library he confirmed that Homer was in New York in 1874 and was then painting in oil. Back at the shop the dealer agreed to take $30 without the frame. The picture was later authenticated by art experts and restored.

About five years later Bill was forced to choose between his love for the picture and friendship. Earlier the English novelist and critic E. M. Forster had been

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*The only other mid-18th century house still standing is Grace Slater's.

persuaded by Bill to lecture at Harvard, and he later returned to the U. S. to accept an honorary doctorate at Hamilton. He discovered the delights of New England country living at Lost Farm, an experience he acknowledged by dedicating "Two Cheers for Democracy," his last book, to "Bill Roerick of Lost Farm, Tyringham, Massachusetts." When Bill learned that Forster was very sick in London, he had to borrow $500 so that he could visit his friend. It was at that point that he asked himself what sense it made to possess a picture if he couldn't afford to help a friend- and he sold the Homer for $25,000. Three years ago it brought $500,000.

When the Tyringham Shaker community was disbanding in the late 1930s and early 1940s, Bill was able to buy important Shaker artifacts such as the trunk of Sister Sarah Collins, the last Shaker in charge of the Mount Lebanon, N. Y., chair factory, and other early glass and wooden pieces. During a visit to the Shaker Museum in Old Chatham, N. Y., in 1984, he was so impressed with the museum's work that he donated his pieces so that they could be more widely appreciated.

From the summer of 1935 when he had his first professional "walk on" in "Trelawney of the Wells" at the Stockbridge playhouse and his first speaking part as Count Paolo del Maggiore in "Declassee" starring Ethel Barrymore, Bill Roerick has been first and foremost an actor. And while his career has included Broadway, Hollywood and television productions, he has appeared in more than 50 roles in Stockbridge and is a member of the Berkshire Theatre Festival Board of Trustees.

Alexander Woolcott wrote a letter of introduction for him to Broadway Director Guthrie McClintic, and Bill remembers it verbatim: "Dear Guthrie, This is to introduce Bill Roerick. He has been acting like mad all summer in the Berkshires. He is eager to depict under your management. Please give him a choice of several important roles and oblige. A.W." McClintic obliged with a walk-on in "Romeo and Juliet" starring his wife Katharine Cornell, Maurice Evans and Ralph Richardson. Bill asked to understudy Balthasar, Romeo's man, and played the role because Sheldon Earp (Wyatt's nephew) never showed up. The next season he was first Guildenstern and then Laertes in John Gielgud's "Hamlet," again directed by McClintic. When "the well went dry" he wrote to Thornton Wilder asking about a part in "Our Town." Wilder advised Bill that accepting the unimportant role he had to offer would ruin his career after his work in "Hamlet." But Bill needed the money and accepted the part unusual for an actor, he has never earned his living outside of the theatre. It was then that he met Teresa Wright, Dorothy McGuire and Tom Coley, and the four have remained fast friends.

After touring in Irving Berlin's "This Is the Army," which raised millions for emergency relief during World War II, Bill returned to the theatre including the leads in "Charley's Aunt" and "The Importance of Being Earnest" in Stockbridge. With Tom Coley he wrote a play, "The Happiest Years," which had a pre-Broadway tryout in Stockbridge in 1948. While it became a favorite for summer stock and amateur groups, the play lasted only eight performances on Broadway. But its star, Peggy Wood, became a friend which led to Bill and Tom's brief career as script writers, including Wood's show "Mama." After appearing with Talullah Bankhead in "Dear Charles," Vivian Vance and Lucille Ball convinced him that California was where the action was, a ten-year upheaval which he endured by driving east every summer to see the farm and do a play in Stockbridge.

In his 52nd year in the theatre, after innumerable stage and screen appearances, he is mildly amused that he is approached on New York City streets, in supermarkets, at Columbia University, not as William Roerick but as Henry Chamberlain, the character he has played in the television soap opera, "The Guiding Light," for the past seven years. But since the contract for that show "saved the farm"--due to rising costs he had seriously considered selling it to save it--he doesn't begrudge such moments.

Liz Spencer

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community.

AUTUMN AND WINTER - 1987

REPORTERS: JULIA REBER - MILLICENT MCINTOSH - PENELOPE LITTELL - SUSAN CHOQUETTE

The Tyringham Arts Lottery Council has requested that we publish the following information: The Massachusetts Arts Lottery Council was established by the State Legislature in 1979 to provide funding for the arts in every city and town of the Commonwealth. It is unique in that it is the first and only one in the nation which does not depend on tax dollars. The Megabucks Game is the source of the revenue for the Arts Lottery program. Currently more than $3 million annually is earmarked for distribution among Massachusetts' local and regional arts lottery councils.

The members of the Tyringham Arts Lottery Council are: Mary Ann Brown (243-0234), Teri D'Angona (243-9848), Clint Elliott (243-0416), Nini Gilder (243-0161), Jeannette McCullough (243-0075), and Gilder Palmer (243-0114). Tyringham's present share of the funds is $750 twice a year--one distribution being made by July 1st, and a second by January 1st. Applications must be received, respectively, by April 1st and October 1st by the local council. This summer the council used part of the money to make tickets available to Tyringham families for an evening at Shakespeare and Company's A Midsummer Night's Dream.

The Arts Lottery Council program is structured to encourage and reflect the needs, interests, resources and creativity of the local community. Everyone in Tyringham is welcome to apply for an application, and/or to serve on the council. Please contact one of the Council members if interested.

An interesting sequence of natural happenings: Within a short period of time, three overwhelming catastrophes occurred. Near the end of September of this year, a major earthquake took place in the vicinity of Whittier, CA. Fortunately, our good friends, the Washburns, former Tyringham residents, were far enough away from the epicenter so that they felt almost no after-shocks. Then on October 4th, Berkshire County, and some contiguous counties in New York State, received from 8 to 18 inches of snow--a "blizzard," no less--Weatherman Bulgarelli notwithstanding. According to a report in the Berkshire Eagle, it cost our town around $5,000 to dig out from under. A few days later, in southern England, the worst hurricane since 1701 occurred. Thousands upon thousands of trees, some of them quite ancient, were completely destroyed. Needless to say, all three phenomena took a toll of human and wild life. "Old Mother Nature" isn't always benign. But on to more cheerful tidings.

A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*** *** *** ***

And may the blessing of God be also on this

HANUKKAH SEASON

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Births:--On March 22, 1987, a son, Christopher Miller Nuttle, was born in Ithaca, NY, to Virginia Ann Miller and Lunt H. Nuttle. Living grandparents are Helena G. Miller of Upper Montclair, NJ and Tyringham, and Mrs. Elizabeth C. Nuttle of Haddonfield, NJ.... To Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hall (Debbie Loring), on May 15, 1987, in Beeville, TX, a son, Henry Hall IV. The maternal grandparents are Dot and Dick Loring of Tyringham, and the paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hall Jr. of Beeville.... On July 23, 1987, a son, Lucas Burbank Swart, was born to Reed and Amy Hare Swart in Atlanta, GA. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Hare of Richmond, VA, and the paternal grandparents are Ruth and Gerald Swart of our town.... To Alice and Charles Slater Jr., on July 26, 1987, a daughter Ellen Grace Slater. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John W. Higgins of Dalton, and the paternal grandparents are Elizabeth and Charles Slater Sr. of Tyringham.... In San Diego, CA on October 4, 1987, a son, Adam Douglas Borax Donald, was born to John Donald and Penelope Borax. The maternal grandparents are Eugene and Anne Borax of Carpinteria, CA, and the paternal grandparents are Alice and the late John K. Donald of Scarsdale, NY and Tyringham. (Maybe there's a future President in this batch of bassinets.)

Deaths:--Lois Olds Swift, a one-time resident of Tyringham, died in Princeton, NJ on August 2, 1987. Our deepest sympathy to all her family.... On August 15, Marion Gelsleichter of our town died. To her family we extend our sincere condolences.... After a long illness, Julia (Joy) Treat died on September 9, 1987. We convey our deepest sympathy to her family.

Belles and Wedding Bells:--On September 18, 1987, Kelly Jean Curtin, daughter of Terrence and Marilyn Curtin of the Main Road, married Anthony Michael Haywood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Haywood of Lee. The Rev. James McKenna performed the ceremony in St. Vincent de Paul Church in Lenox Dale.

All Around the Town:--I must start off this item with a red face and an abject apology for a sin of omission. In the list of local graduates from the Lee High School last June, I inadvertently omitted the name of Kim Carlson, daughter of Henning and Joyce Carlson. Well, she <u>is</u> a graduate--and Kim, I'm sorry!...

Noted Violinist Retires: Summer resident Harry Ellis Dickson retired from the Boston Symphony Orchestra after 49 years. However, other aspects of his musical pursuits ensure that he will not remain idle in retirement. Good luck, Harry!

While yet on a musical motif, as part of the Friday Night Prelude at Tanglewood on August 21st, composer John McLennan's Horn Trio was performed and was very well received. The work also was acclaimed when it premiered at Andover, MA on April 1st. Congratulations, John!

It wasn't exactly a congenial evening to be out trick-or-treating. But the motley crew that erupted from the hay wagons was not concerned with the cold weather. In full cry, they swarmed up the steps of houses and demanded tribute. As usual, we

were surrounded by ghosts and ghouls and goblins--and even a Biblical character or two. Tribute having been rendered, they rushed out in a clatter of feet and a "Thank you! thank you!" On this Hallowe'en, doughnuts and cider were donated by the Selectmen, and a check was presented by the Hop Brook Club. Tom Fennelly and John Curtin drove the hay wagons, and Fire Chief Jim Curtin manned the fire truck. Undoubtedly a good time was had by all.

It is simply impossible to keep abreast of Selectman Mary Hale's accomplishments. In the last issue of TOPICS, we listed the staggering number of "hats" she wore. Now Mary has donned another. In Boston, on November 7th, she became President of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. As president, she will formulate policy for the 1,400-member organization, and will see that it is duly carried out. She also will head the Local Governor's Advisory Council. A round of applause for Mary!

Evelyn Winters, President of the Valley Club, reports that this past summer the club members built a picnic table for the park. They planted and tended the lovely flowers in the circle on the green. Also, a donation was made to the fund which sends special needs children to camp. Artificial swans were purchased for use around the town pool, with a view to keeping away the intrusive Canada geese. Again this year, the club will make Christmas wreaths for the town buildings. A busy bunch of ladies.

Maggie Curtin, Mary Ann Fennelly, and a host of willing helpers organized three suppers this year for the benefit of the Church. There was the Chicken Barbecue in May, the Strawberry Supper in June, and the Harvest Supper in October. All were financial successes. In addition, Mrs. Ivy Wheeler of Lee, not a church member, but out of the goodness of her heart, donated a quilt she had made in the "bear paw" design. This was raffled off for the benefit of the Church, and was won by Deanna Curtin. Lucky Deanna--and many, many thanks to Ivy Wheeler.

Jim Curtin, Chief of the Tyringham Volunteer Fire Company, reported that the Annual Steak Roast and Dance was a complete success. He extends his thanks to all who, with unflagging energies, contributed to the success of this affair. In conjunction with the Cobble Committee, the Fire Company sponsored the Annual Cobble Race on the morning of the same day as the Steak Roast. This year the race was dedicated to the memory of the late Walter Howard, former Tyringham Cobble Chairman and enthusiastic support of the race, who died last winter.

The event raised more than $2,000 to benefit the Tyringham Cobble, which is owned and preserved by the Trustees of Reservations. Statistics for Tyringham entries in the five-mile race are as follows: Ladies' division, Serafina Krag, 39:48, and Helena Palmer, 49:15. On the men's side, Peter Bruun, 31:57, and Tonio Palmer, 32:56. Top Tyringham finishers in the "Fun Run" (two and one-half miles) were Kevin Clark, 27:38, Chuck Clark, 27:39 (son noses out Pa by one second!), and Damon Waton, 29:15. Congratulations to our Tyringham participants, who helped make this occasion such a success.

With Sissy Curtin in charge, the annual Christmas party for the children of Tyringham will take place in the Town Hall at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 18th. Parents, please bring with you the presents you wish your offspring to receive. Santa's "identity" is not known at this time.

With this issue of TOPICS something new has been added. After a couple of meetings with Teresa Bragdon of Goose Pond, it was decided that we would try to bridge the gap between the Tyringham Valley-ites and the Goose Ponders. In essence, this gap is mainly a matter of geography, due to the fact that there are no roads which

directly connect the Valley with the Pond. One goes around Robin Hood's barn, so to speak. Teresa, who is also Town Clerk, will write the Goose Pond news and solicit names for the annual Christmas List. From the Tyringham Valley to Goose Pond, cordial wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Department of Utter Trivia:--From **Modern Maturity**--Housing Development: where they cut all the trees down, and then name streets after them.... Young man, describing the school play in a letter to his grandparents: "It's too bad you couldn't get here to see the play. It was called 'Hamlet,' and a lot of people came. Some of them had seen the play before, but they laughed just the same...." Sign at a wildlife watering hole: "Quiet. The buck stops here."

--Judy Reber

YOUTH NEWS

The Golden Hour, the summer Vacation Bible School of Union Church, began a new chapter in its ten-year history this past summer. Under the direction of Sue Choquette and Teri D'Angona, members of the Youth Fellowship planned, organized and implemented the program's lessons and activities. April Slater and Michael Curtin of Tyringham, and Jennifer Stanard of Lee, very aptly led the children in four Fridays of Bible lessons, songs, activities, and sports. Their preparation and enthusiasm were most commendable, and we applaud them for a job well done!

The Golden Hour concluded with a program of songs and skits directed by April, Michael, and Jennifer, and an all-church picnic followed by lots of fun and games. (The water-balloon toss was by far the most popular game, and lucky for some of us, the day was hot and sunny!)

The Youth Fellowship has begun holding regular weekly meetings in the newly renovated Youth Center in the barn at Union Church. All junior and senior high students are welcome to attend the 6:30 p.m. Sunday evening meetings under the direction of Pastor Paul D'Angona. Sometimes pizza, sometimes ping-pong, sometimes video games, sometimes a surprise, but always a good time in an atmosphere of Christian Fellowship--so help us spread the word!

--Sue Choquette

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB

In August we were all looking forward to meeting poolside at Liz Spencer's house, but it was so hot and sticky that we retired to her cool library instead. There we put the final touches on arrangements for the Harry Ellis Dickson lecture to be held September 15th.

Mr. Dickson gave a talk that was both funny and illuminating, and we all fee we know a great deal more now about what life is like behind the scenes at the Boston Symphony. The talk was also very well attended and raised $1,020 for the Scholarship Fund.

This year's scholarships were awarded to four Tyringham high school graduates. Congratulations and best wishes in their further studies to: David Clark, Larry Curtin, Geoffrey Lenti, and Tony Puntin.

The scholarship committee met at Millie's with Teresa Bragdon who lives at Goose Pond and made progress in bridging the geographical gap between "valley folk" and

the growing population of "Goose Ponders." Teresa herself undertook a house-to-house collection which resulted in several contributions to the scholarship fund.

Our last meeting was held during the Veterans Day snowstorm where those who braved the weather were met by Ann Davis with refreshments and a welcoming fire. We proceeded with the delightful business of planning for the Christmas Party at the McLennans' barn.

Penelope Littell, Secretary

OUT OF TOWN NEWS

Mary-Gene Smith Caplan was named "Woman of the Year in Metals" in Houston, TX. The Raymond Smiths became grandparents on February 11th to Justin Rancourt. His mother, "Tammy," is Norine Smith's daughter.

Philippa Claude's husband, Tony Stretton, has returned from trekking with his son on the Himalayas in Nepal.

In March, Donna and Gerald Drake became grandparents to Evan Scott, born to Tim and Jean M. Drake Landon.

Bill Dyer has been elected an elder in the Palmetto Presbyterian Church, and was nominated for the Board of Directors at Shadow Brook. The Dyers have moved next door to a larger house.

Juel Hale writes that as secretary of the Gramercy Association, and with other members of the Planning Board, she protested the building of "another Convenience Store." She writes also: "I have a shopping bag full of infant soft toys to embroider features on."

Anne and Chris Moffett's older son, Jonathan, was married on July 18th to Michelle Kennedy. Both are working part time and are part-time students at the University of Toronto.

Dick O'Hara has begun his second year of teaching at Gordon-Conwell Seminary as an adjunct faculty member.

Petey and Ned Perkins write that all their children and grandchildren (and dogs) gathered in Tyringham July 12th to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

Dr. Salzmann reports two great-grandchildren in Paris, France, and two in Athens, GA.

Betty Clark Smith is a nurse-practitioner with an important supervisory job at the Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover, NH.

--Millicent McIntosh

GOD IN A MANGER

Dear Friends,

Will you always--always--remember how Christmas really was and is? When the world was at quiet midnight, Mary suddenly held God to her heart. Nothing really seemed to be changed, at least not yet.... The wide-eyed ox looked up, a little mouse scurried across the floor, the lamp flickered in the shadows.... But changes were there.... The Baby looked up at the dusty roof of the cave as if it were the dome of heaven and the straw of the floor was the Milky Way beneath His feet.... Far away on a hillside there was a vision of light, a choir of angels, and a "Gloria."

There were changes--never forget them.... Several years later a man described them in four simple words: "Verbum caro factum est"--"The Word became flesh." I find it impossible really to explain these words. They are the last great riddle of the Universe. They mean, somehow, that the Baby in that cold cave was God, very God of very God, and that He was in the manger because from all eternity He had wanted to be there. His own will, tender, and pitying for you and me, had brought Him there to carry the great scars of our sins, to divide the sea of our death, to take away our own hearts and give us His own.

You do not know what I am saying? Neither do I, even after all these years of carols and lights celebrating His coming. But on Christmas Eve He will, please God, be very good to us, and in the hush and stillness, we may join the little children of His good will who always believe more than they will ever know....

Christmas Blessings to You All,

Paul S. D'Angona, Pastor, Union Church

CHRISTMAS LIST - 1987

Steve and Cindy Adams
Mebbie Barhydt Allen and Family and Richard and Family
Robert and Toodie Alsop
Suzette and Tom Jones; Sarah and Teresa Colburn; Denny and Beck Alsop, Eliza, Zoë, and Ben Alsop; Adele Alsop, Basil Eisenman; Christina and Bill Beautyman, Denny Gignoux, Mairi and Suzanne Beautyman
Walt, Rosa, Walt Jr. and Heidi Alward
Babbie Barhydt
Richard Billington
Elizabeth Billington
Richard and Georgia Birkett
Barbara and Norbert Bogdan
Jean Brown and Family
Mary Ann and Bob Brown, Nicole and Alexis
Carolyn G. Canon
Mrs. Clifford R. Canon; Dorothy B. Canon
In loving memory of Clifford R. Canon
Nort, Eleanor and Jennifer Canon
John and Marie Canon and the Boys
Henning, Joyce, Michael and Kimberly Carlson
Carolyn Carlson

In memory of Henning Carlson
In memory of Helen and Martin Butler
In memory of Thelma Carlson
In memory of Wilbur S. and Carrie Clark
Virginia Gorman Caruthers; Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Moran, and Conor
Jim and Sheila Caseley, Kerstin and Steve
Larry and Betty Cernik
Richard and Jessica Cernik
Donald, Jeremy and Scott Cernik
Jeffrey Cernik
Randy and Christine Cernik
Michael, Dawn, and the twins, Alexander and Tiffany Fredette
Peter, Gail and Elisabeth Charpentier
Bob and Sue Choquette, Aubrey and Noah
Harvey and Dot Choquette
Chuck, Terry, David, Jon and Kevin Clark
Irma Clark
Michael, Kerry, Kelly and Michael C. Sullivan
In memory of Duffy Clark
Maria Cole
Timolin Cole
Casey Cole
Kelly Cole
Thomas Coley
Ruth P. Couch
Agnes Curtin
Carl and Chris Curtin; Christine and Larry
Gerry Curtin
Mary Curtin; Gene and Nancy Curtin, and sons Kevin, Eugene and Scott
Neil, Helen and Mary Curtin
Terry, Marilyn and Stephen Curtin
Tommy and Maggie Curtin
Paul, Teri and Nathan D'Angona
Putt, Holly and Jennifer Darey
Ann and Donald Davis and Family
Grace and Betty Dennis
Harry Ellis Dickson, his children, Kitty and Mike Dukakis, Jinny and Alfred Peters; grandchildren and great-grandson!
The Dillon Family
Alice and Alison Donald
John Donald, Penny Borax, David and Adam Donald
Gerry, Donna, Christine and Patty Drake
In loving memory of parents Roy and Candace Heath
Bill and Connie Dyer
Arthur and Jane Dyer
Marcia J. Eisenberg
Clint, Varney, Susannah, Alex and Rosy Elliott
Jim and Bev (Dyer) Elsensohn, Eric and Heidi
Jim and Eugenie Fawcett, John, Donald, Nan and James
Everett, Mary Ann, Amy and Kathleen Fennelly
Everett R. and Mary Beth Fennelly
Honora and Don Gifford

George and Nini Gilder, Louisa, Mellie, Richard and Nannina
Mellie and Rod Gilder; David, Cindy and Allison; Joshua
Arnold and Alice Hale
In memory of loved ones
Don and Mary Hale
In loving memory of Elizabeth L. Hale
Elizabeth J. Hale
Steve, Sue and Brody Hale
Judith and Charles Hauer
Cortland and Anna Heath
Herbert and Debbie Heath and Family
Bartlett and Mary Hendricks
John (Rocky) and Eleanor (El) Hoag
John and Gladys Holloway
Sarah Hudson
Ken, Kenny and Linda Jones
Allan, Martha, Jason and Allison Joyner
Wil, Mary D., Plum and Nick Kierstead
Jim and Celia Kittredge and Family
Grace Knickerbocker
George and Betty Kramer, Alice, Hawley and Charles Truax
Lucyan and Alan Kraszeski; and Nancy Robitaille and Family
Doug and Marion Leach
Eugene and Lucca Lehner, Andreas, Mary, Adam and Sven
Penelope, Blaine and Kim Littell
Bob, Sue, Ben, Seth and Tom Lloyd
Beatrice Loring
Dot and Dick Loring, Ricky Loring; Ed, Carol, Shawn, Sarah and Jeremy Loring
Debrah and Henry Hall Jr., Kevin, Amy and Ashley
Margaret and Russell Loring
Olive Loring
Tunk, Dede, Chuck and Tony Loring
Bill and Rhonda Winters
Ed, Elaine and Bryan Arnold
Margaret, Barrie, Alex, Charles and James Luchars
W. Merritt and Marylou McBrian
Wendy A. McBrian
Charles and Isabel McCarthy
Doug and Shirley McCarthy
Michael, Jeannette, Dylan, Colin and Tyler McCullough, and Jason and Damon Waton
Millicent McIntosh and her four sons
In memory of Rusty McIntosh
John and Katharine McLennan
Holly, Emma and Henry Wheelwright
Angelica, Philippe, Miranda and Marc Syp
Susan Bishop and Rachel
Judith Bishop and Charles Bookoff and Maia
Moo and Michael Stella and Milo
Jennifer Bishop
Miller Family: Helena; Rodman G. and Richard (Gabe); Julia, Steve, Tess and Nadia Hartman; Amasa and Elisa; Virginia, Lunt, Molly and Christopher Nuttle

Anne, Chris, Sarah, Sam, Jonathan and Michelle Moffett
Polly and Ray Montgomery
Marie S. Moore
James and Ruth Morse, and John Heath
Lyn and Bob Moskin, Mark, David and Nancy
Marilyn, Dick, Joshua, Jesse and Jonathan O'Hara
Gilder, Anne and Reese Palmer
Helena, Tonio and Kay Palmer
Walter and Spring Palmer
John and Hylie Pappenheimer and Family
Ned and Petey Perkins and Family
Jesse Pierce
In memory of Helen Butler
Mrs. Phillips W. Pursell
Viggo and Catha Rambusch, Edwin, Martin and Lucia;
Kristin and Alexander von Thelen
Judy and Peggy Reber
Margaret Rector; Susan and William Barkin
Guy and Martha Robb
William Roerick
Dr. J. A. Salzmann
Joan and Elizabeth Santonastasi
Tim and Molly Schaefer
Charlie, Liz and Marge Slater
Grace Slater
Sam and Debby Slater
Gene, Ina, Eric and Nancy Schnell; Vicki and Jay Rosen
Betty Clark Smith
Mary and Gene (Ray) Smith
Pad Spence, Paddy Spence, Colin Spence and Justin Spence
Liz Spencer
Tom and Helen Stephens, Mark and Laura
Jo Stott
Tony and Philippa Claude Stretton; Chris, Rich and Sarah
Ruth and Gerald Swart
Alice S. Thain
Blanche and Bill Thober
Asher Treat
Jerry, Toni and Nancy Twing
Don and Janet Umlauf
The Urquhart Family
Gordon, Kate and Barb Van Orman
Randy Wade and Nancy Heath, and Adam
Barbara and Deric Washburn, Jennifer and Stephanie
Joe and Marion Whalen
Bert, Karen, Keith, Timmy and Chad Williams
Evelyn Winters
In memory of Michael Winters
Lillian, Michael, James, Troy, Patrick and Melissa
Winters
In memory of Kenneth (Red) Winters

GREETINGS to all from those of us on Goose Pond! This year, we have been trying to make Goose Pond area residents more aware of the efforts of the Hop Brook Community Club, although geographically speaking, we are a town divided. Certainly, many of us were aware of its existence simply because we've received a newsletter once in a while. However, it probably was read hastily and put aside to re-read at a more convenient time - "convenient" being the key word in our hectic schedules.

During our successful drive for contributions to the scholarship fund during the summer months, Laurie Baluk and I were able to meet personally with many of our neighbors to ask their support. And, of course, we recently sent out a request for listings in the "Season's Greetings" section of the December newsletter. It is with high hopes we anticipated an abundance of news items and listings to be included in this holiday issue. Particularly since the population of Tyringham in the Goose Pond area continues to increase dramatically.

Although thankful to those who were able to contribute (VERY thankful!), we were somewhat disappointed in the number who had not participated in this request. We were so certain that, as Tyringham residents, EVERYONE would surely support the scholarship for Tyringham students. Be that as it may, the final outcome is that your reporter (who is not much of a reporter at all) had to fill this page with chatter instead of listings of Goose Pond residents sending their greetings to friends and neighbors of Tyringham.

Chatter aside, we are happy to report that up on Goose Pond the McBrians are undergoing something of a change. Their daughter, Wendy, is building a new home. It should be completed about the first of the year. Meanwhile, MaryLou and Merritt have sold their home to the Shaffers from Great Neck, Long Island, and will rent and move into Wendy's new house as soon as it is completed. Wendy plans to come home on vacation from her work in the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, so as to participate in the house warming.

New neighbors at the former Keith Burtt residence are Richard and Lindsay Greene. We welcome this enthusiastic young couple and look forward to introducing them to other neighbors at future gatherings.

Jody Kashden has taken up residence in her family home on Cooper Creek Road. Jody had been living in California and now enjoys the peace and tranquility of Goose Pond.

Our congratulations go to Tim and Gail Puntin of Lakeside Drive on the birth of their daughter, Cara Michelle, born October 28. And Jimmy and Karen Consolati will be looking forward to a new member of their family due to arrive in May.

Please consider this as an appeal to all of you in the Goose Pond area. We'd like to publicly welcome new neighbors to Tyringham in an issue of the Hop Brook Community Club's newsletter. If you're new to the area, or know of someone new to Goose Pond, please call me (243-9816) or drop a note in my box (G-2). Let's make the Goose Pond Section of this newsletter interesting and informative!

My personal thanks to all who participated in our fund drives - and best wishes for a happy holiday season!

Teresa Bragdon

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE EXTEND THEIR BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO THEIR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS IN TYRINGHAM VALLEY AS WELL AS TO THOSE IN THE GOOSE POND AREA:

Teresa, Tricia, and Rodney Bragdon

Jane and George Brooks

Steve, Laurie, Kurt and Erika Baluk

Jim, Karen, and Ben Consolati

Ann, John, Andi, Alex, Parker, and Eleanor Emerson

Richard and Lindsay Greene

The Kashdens

Jay, Darlene, Stephen and Melissa McBrian

MaryLou and Merritt McBrian

LeRoy, Marge, Kelly and Butch Palmer

Donald, Lauria, Brian, Tony, and Matthew Puntin

William S. and Olive Stewart

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB
TYRINGHAM, MA 01264

Tyringham Topics

Published from time to time by the Hop Brook Community Club, in the interests of the church and community.

SPRING AND SUMMER 1988

REPORTERS: Julia Reber, Millicent McIntosh, Penelope Littell, Susan Choquette

Hail and farewell!

After fifteen years, I am retiring my thirty-seven year old so-called Silent Smith-Corona, and putting myself out to pasture. That is to say, the TYRINGHAM TOPICS as it exists today must enlist new talent to take over the functions of this retiring reporter. To date, no solution has emerged, but we are hoping that a way will be found so that TOPICS can continue--perhaps in a different format. Cap Couch, its founder, felt that it was important as a way of keeping us together as a community, and the Hop Brook Club has shared this conviction.

Taking it all in all, I've enjoyed writing that portion of TOPICS which fell to my lot. However, that share was not without its perils! Ah, those sins of omission and commission. I didn't encounter too much flak in the commission department, probably because the "injured parties" were too polite to take me to task. But the omissions were something else: the angry voice on the phone berating me for the omission of a name on the Christmas List; the plaintive voice, wondering why this or that item had not been included in TOPICS. And then the occasional compliment, which made it all worthwhile. And so good-bye.

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Births:--To Pastor Paul and Teri D'Angona, a daughter, Natalie Jane, was born on December 29, 1987. The maternal grandparents are Edwin and Jane Nearing of Litchfield, Conn., and the paternal grandparents are Samuel and Eleanor D'Angona of Dennis, Mass. . . To A. Stephen and Suzanne Hale of the Main Road, a daughter, Mariah Suzanne, was born on May 27, 1988. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Francis Wilson of Kansas, and the paternal grandparents are Donald and Mary Hale of our town.

Deaths:--To the family of Carolyn C. Carlson, we render sincere condolences. Her death occurred on January 6, 1988, after a long illness. Due to her excellence in cooking, Carolyn received various national championship awards for canning, and also for 4-H leadership. . . Richard E. Birkett of the Main Road, died on January 10, 1988, after a long illness. From 1938 to 1972 he was Superintendent of the Howard Farm. In his time he was also animal health inspector and fence viewer for Tyringham. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family. . .After a short illness, Peter J. Eberth of the Main Road, died on February 10, 1988. He was an electrical, mechanical and

design engineer. Our sincere sympathy to his family.

All Around the Town:--After the morning service at the Union Church, and following an agreeable lunch, the annual election of church officers produced the following: Moderator, Walter deKay Palmer; Clerk, Ruth Morse; Treasurer, Walter deKay Palmer (pro tem); Deacon, Robert Choquette; Deaconesses, Susan Choquette, 3 years; Teri D'Angona, 2 years; Trustees, Kenneth Jones, Charles Slater, Sr.; Finance Committee, George Gilder; Nominating Committee, Kathleen Van Orman; Members-at-Large, James Thomas, 2 years, Millicent McIntosh, 1 year; Auditor, Donald Umlauf; Sunday School Superintendents, Teri D'Angona and Robert Brown.

On Monday, May 16, 1988, 32%, or 69 of the 218 registered voters, turned out to elect the following town officers: Selectman, Peter L. Curtin, Sr.; Assessor (vacant); Cemetery Trustee, Deanna Curtin; Park Commissioner, Steven R. Adams; School Committee, Lauria D. Puntin; Library Trustee, Mary G. Garner; Planning Board, Barbara S. Adams; Auditor (vacant).

On May 28th, at 10:00 A.M. (a departure from our customary evening hour of 7:30 P.M.), the voters of Tyringham met in the Town Hall to consider the 1988-89 budget. We were startled to discover that the figures were up 51% from last year. However, this was reasonably explained as follows: The school budget figure, a whopping $202,000, is an increase of 27.6% from last year. This is the result of not only an increase in the number of school children, but a student tuition increase in all grades from K to 12. Also, the purchase of a new all-wheel drive-articulated motor grader, costing $94,246.40 was approved by written ballot. Under the proper authority, this sum will be borrowed and repaid over a five-year period. (The total budget figure is in the neighborhood of $665,604).

Dick Loring, road superintendent, convinced us that the present equipment is all but derelict, and further repairs would simply be a waste of money. And this is as good a place as any to be thanking Dick and his assistant, Steve Adams, for their excellent performance in the plowing of our roads (22 miles in the Valley and Goose Pond), during our snowy New England winters.

In a recent conversation with Gerald Swart, a member of the Planning Board, he stated that the Board is now studying the possibility of increasing the lot size in town from one to two acres. If this were put into effect, it would necessitate a change in the town's by-laws. However, the entire matter is still in the discussion stage.

Lightening the doldrums of winter, the Fidelio Society of Phillips Academy of Andover, Mass., under the baton of Sue McIntosh Lloyd, entertained us on Saturday, January 9th, at the Union Church. This song-fest was for the benefit of the church. Here indeed is a group of talented and exuberant young people. The repertoire included songs from the Middle Ages to the present time. We hope they will be with us sometime again, for their youth and enthusiasm are heart-warming.

Sometime before his death earlier this year, the Tyringham Annual Report for 1986-87, designed by Peter Eberth of the Main Road, owner of The Visual Arts in Lee, received third prize (behind Wendell and Middlefield) in the category of towns of less than 1,000 people. In a prior year, the town report received first prize, and was also printed by The Visual Arts. The award was sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Association. We will miss Peter's fine-honed and imaginative work.

Still on the subject of art--but in a different category--the month of May saw an unusual exhibit at the Welles Gallery in the Lenox Library: a collection of "Mothers' and Daughters' Art"--and even one grandmother! The paintings of Toodie Alsop (our "artist in residence"), were on display--as were those of her three daughters, Adele Alsop, Christina Beautyman, and Suzette Jones. The grandmother was Alma de G. Morgan of Stockbridge, mother of Toodie. Without a doubt, it was an interesting exhibit.

Despite the uncooperative weather, the Chicken Bar-B-Q on May 11th at the Union Church was a success. The supper, to benefit the church, was organized by Maggie Curtin, Mary Ann Fennelly and Sissie Curtin, with lots of other willing workers. Jake Thomas procured the chickens, and also barbequed them. Next on the agenda is the Strawberry Supper on June 22nd. Y'all come.

The Younger Set:--Michael Carlson, son of Henning and Joyce Carlson, graduated cum laude from Western New England College with a degree in Mathematics. Michael will be in computer work with EDS in Detroit, Mich. . . . Randy Cernik, son of Larry and Betty Cernik, graduated from UMass with a B.S. Degree in Chemical Engineering. He has joined the General Electric Plastics Business Group in Pittsfield at a very lucrative salary. . . . Marjorie Slater, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Slater, graduated magna cum laude from Westfield State College, with a B.S. Degree in Business Management. Marjorie was on the Dean's List her entire four years in college. She has a position lined up in the Audit Department of Arthur Andersen and Co. in Hartford, Conn. . . Three young men, sons of Tyringham summer residents, also won their sheepskins: Charles Truax, son of George and Betty Kramer, graduated from Hamilton College, N.Y. with a B.A. in English. Charles is very pleased at having obtained a temporary position in London, England, as assistant to Oberon Waugh, who is the editor of the Literary Review. . . The Rambusch twins, Martin and Edwin, sons of Viggo and Catha Rambusch. Martin graduated from Tulane University with a B.A. in Fine Arts, and a minor in Economics. He also won the Helen Travigino Art Award. Edwin graduated from Bates College with a B.A. in Art History, and a minor in Economics. He spent his Junior year in Italy studying architecture. After a short training program, Martin and Edwin will join the family firm of Rambusch Decorating Company in New York, which was established in 1898. May Fortune smile on all our graduates!

Department of Utter Trivia:--The following from MODERN MATURITY: The internal-combustion engine is irresistibly attractive to a young man--unless, of course, it's mounted on a lawn-mower. . .Though man has developed a line that's virtually invisible to a fish, he has yet to come up with one that's not immediately apparent to a woman. . .Remember when the first person an accident victim asked for was a doctor, not a lawyer?. . .If you think you're getting too much government, just be thankful you're not getting as much as you're paying for.

JUDY REBER

Golden Hour News:--Union Church is pleased once again to announce the schedule for "The Golden Hour", a summer Vacation Bible School program. This year the program will be directed by Mr. Kimon Nicholaides, a pastoral student at Westminster Theological Seminary, who will be serving his internship here at Union Church for 10 weeks during the summer. Teri D'Angona and Sue Choquette will assist.

A 5-day program will be presented Monday through Friday, June 27 - July 1, from 10:00 to 12:00. Classes will be held for children age 5 through grade 6.

As a special outing for Golden Hour participants, Mrs. Jane Kessler will conduct an evening hike Thursday, June 30, at Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Lenox, to observe the beavers at their evening activities.

We look forward to a very special week of learning and growing as the Golden Hour continues for yet another season. Spread the Word and join us!!!

SUE CHOQUETTE

Hop Brook Club News:--Millie McIntosh reports from the Scholarship Committee that this year, for the first time, we had no scholarship applicants from the Valley. However, two Goose Pond graduates did apply. We awarded a $500 scholarship to Tricia Bragdon and a $300 grant to Keith Kasprzak.

Tricia has already developed a strong interest in social work, and expects to prepare for a career in this field at Westfield State College. Keith has been accepted in the "Criminal Justice Program" at Berkshire Community College.

This Spring, the Club accepted Millie McIntosh's resignation as Treasurer with enormous regret. At the same time we welcome the mathematical expertise of Katherine McLennan who, with the aid of Marion Leach, is taking over the office. We have not been so lucky in finding a replacement for Judy Reber who has been the editor, a contributing writer and tireless organizer of Tyringham Topics for fifteen years. There is no replacement for Judy! We are in the process of investigating a simpler form of Topics as we go to print and hope that we come up with a good solution by the time the next issue is due.

Looking to the future, we are delighted to announce our first Associate Member of the Club: Ms. Mellie Gilder, age seven, daughter of George and Nini Gilder.

PENELOPE LITTELL

Here we are again publishing another issue of the Tyringham Topics. Seems like just a while ago I was writing letters requesting donations to our scholarship fund via the annual Christmas greeting in the holiday issue of the Topics. That, by the way, was not too successful so be prepared for an all-out campaign come late Fall (brr-r-r) to ask your support for this worthy cause.

The Hop Brook Club has again been very generous to our Goose Pond graduates. My daughter, Tricia, who will be attending Western New England College in the Fall, was very fortunate to have been awarded a scholarship; and Keith Kasprzak (Stonebridge Ways), who plans to attend Berkshire Community College, has been awarded a grant. Our congratulations and best wishes go to our local graduates, including Kathy Fennelly from the "valley." Since the support for these scholarships must come from within the town, please make every effort to contribute each year - particularly if you have children attending our schools.

Speaking of children - our area population has again been increased with the addition of the DeSantis family. They have built an extremely attractive home on the corner of Lakeside Drive and Goose Pond Road. Bill is a sub-contractor (you can tell by the workmanship) and Peggy works at Price Chopper in addition to preparing tax returns around the first of the year. They have 4 children: Craig, who is 16, a Freshman; Gina, 12, in Grade 6; Nick, 7, who is in the second grade; and the youngest, Billy, is 6 and is in Kindergarten. We welcome the entire family!

Karen and Jim Consolati have been blessed with their second son, Austin James, born on May 8. Congratulations Jim, Karen, and Benjamin! Rumor has it that there is a couple more "great expectations" due in the area, but since I've not been informed officially I'll just advise the local School Committee to be prepared!

Tom and Joan Mougin's daughter, Tracy, will be wed in the Fall to Peter Fraser, Jr., of Lee. The wedding is planned for September 10. We all extend our best wishes to the couple.

Mary Lou and Merritt McBrian have moved into their new residence in Wendy's lovely home. Wendy just returned from Switzerland and will once again be living in Tyringham, whereas Merritt and Mary Lou have officially become residents of Florida. The Shaffers, new owners of the McBrian home, got to meet some of their neighbors over Memorial Day weekend when a white birch on their lawn fell across Cooper Creek Road - narrowly missing the wires and, fortunately, a passing car. Welcome to the country!

I'm really at a loss as to what else to include in this issue of Topics. As you know, I'm not the "reporter" type and I'm always happy to accept any contributions of newsworthy items for this section. More importantly, we'd even pass along the role of reporter (gladly!) to any interested party. Please keep us in mind. Let us know about new neighbors, or special events. We'd be happy to include them in our next issue - if, indeed, there is a next issue. I was sorry to learn that the gal who got me involved in all this to begin with, Julia Reber, is retiring from her editorial position on the Topics. Thank you, Judy, for all your efforts in the past. We will miss your touch, and we certainly hope that the future of the Topics is favorable. It has been a part of Tyringham for so long and I doubt that there are many other small towns in the area able to boast of such a charming publication.

Enjoy!

Teresa Bragdon

HOP BROOK COMMUNITY CLUB
TYRINGHAM, MA 01264

TYRINGHAM TOPICS

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